

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

17th March, 1953

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1953.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

***1698. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the main features of the Five-Year Plan for the Punjab State;

(b) the names of districts and places in the State where these schemes are to be implemented;

(c) the machinery devised to implement these schemes;

(d) the instructions; if any, issued by the Government to the district authorities for the implementation of these schemes ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sacher : (a) The main features of the Five-Year Plan for the Punjab State are as under :—

(1) The State Plan seeks to concentrate initially on rural development and at the same time it gives a recognised place to the development of industries in urban areas.

(2) As per statement given below, a very large sum of money is proposed to be spent on schemes of agricultural development including irrigation. Great emphasis is laid on consolidation operations and it is proposed to complete these operations throughout the State by 1959.

Total Cost Involved on the Five-Year Plan of Punjab (excluding the Bhakra Nangal Project)

		Rs. in lacs
1	Agriculture	169.72
2	Consolidation of holdings	286.18
3	Veterninary	26.69
4	Forests	18.00
5	Co-operation	11.77
6	Irrigation	326.22
7	Electricity	38.16

[Chief Minister]

		Rs in lacs
8	Industries	63,62
9	Roads	75,11
10	Education	78,00
11	Engineering College	40,00
12	Medical and Public Health	124,00
13	Labour Welfare	1,75
14	Industrial Housing	11,25
15	Amelioration of Scheduled Areas	75,44
16	Community Project and Extension Training Centres	327,17
17	Capital Projects	1280,00
	Total	2953,08

(3) Allied to this development work is the scheme of Community Projects which aims at intensive development on all fronts in selected areas.

(4) Chandigarh Capital Project is the single most effective scheme for the rehabilitation of industrialists and businessmen in the State.

(5) In addition to the scheme included in the State Plan, the Bhakra-Nangal Project will also remain under execution during the period of the plan. A sum of Rs. 11,891 lacs is estimated to be spent on the Project in the period.

(b) The various schemes included in the plan cover the State as a whole. Steps are being taken to split up the various development schemes district-wise. In addition to the State schemes, district development schemes will be formulated and these will be integrated with the programme of local bodies. It is somewhat premature to give at present these details district-wise.

(c) (1) At the State headquarters;
(i) Development Commissioner.
(ii) Deputy Development Commissioner.

(2) At the district level, it is proposed to set up Development Boards and make the Deputy Commissioners responsible for development work by relieving them of some of their routine duties.

(3) A National Extension Service Scheme is being prepared with a view to mobilise separate machinery for development activities. At the village level it is intended to have a multipurpose village level worker for a group of 3 to 10 villages.

(4) Project Executive Officers and Assistant Project Officers in the Community Project areas.

(d) (1) The Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to render all assistance in the execution of the Project programmes.

(2) They are being asked to work out details of the plan districtwise and to formulate programmes of district development.

(3) They have been instructed to associate people for voluntary labour for public works and to secure their utmost co-operation, to formulate local development schemes and to associate village panchayats in the implementation and maintenance of these schemes.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Chief Minster be pleased to state when the work of this district-wise scheme, of which he has made a mention, will commence ?

Chief Minister : That work has already commenced. In this connection necessary data is being collected. After it is available we shall see how these gaps should be filled.

Shri Ram Kishan : The Chief Minister has stated in his reply that District Development Boards would be set up. May I know what principle will be adhered to in making the appointments of the members of these Boards.

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the Chief Minister kindly state whether urban rehabilitation work is proposed to be done under this scheme ?

Chief Minister : In this connection I may submit that the Government had already started the work of urban rehabilitation long before the Five-Year plan was put into operation. This work has nothing to do with this plan.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Will the Chief Minister please state the schemes which have been financed with the money that is being spent for the last two years ?

Chief Minister : I have just given the names of the various Heads. For instance there are various Heads such as Agriculture, Forest, Education, Medical, P. W. D., Irrigation, Electricity, etc., etc. The money provided against these Heads during the previous years yielded a corresponding progress in their work.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : Will the Chief Minister kindly state whether any satisfactory publicity arrangements have been made to inform the people of the work that has so far been done ?

Chief Minister : In order to give a wide publicity to it, I have already requested the hon. Members more than once to visit their respective constituencies. Besides, I have made arrangements to place at the disposal of all the Members irrespective of their party affiliations, the publicity vans of the Public Relations Department provided they appreciate and place before the masses the achievements of the government without any comments.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know whether or not any provision has been made in the Five-Year Plan to solve the problem of the educated unemployed ?

Chief Minister : The problem of removing this kind of unemployment is engaging the continuous and serious attention of the Government. We propose either to absorb the educated people in the various professions or impart to them vocational training. The government is at present concentrating its attention on the development of cottage industries which will result in two-fold benefits i. e., besides attaining prosperity it will remove unemployment from our society.

INSTALLATION OF A THERMAL PLANT IN JULLUNDUR CITY.

***1697. Shri Ram Kishan:** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to instal a thermal plant in Jullundur city under the Five-Year Plan, if so, the details of the schemes ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh:** As the town of Jullundur is fed with power from the Uhl River Scheme, the question of starting a thermal plant in that town does not arise.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister please state whether during the course of his Jullundur tour in July last year, the Minister for Irrigation made an announcement to the effect that a thermal plant will be installed there in the month of April or May?

Mr. Speaker : How can the hon. Member expect a reply to this question when the Minister incharge is not present in the House ?

Minister for Finance : I cannot say what announcement he made but I can definitely assure the hon. Member that the demand of the people for electricity will of course be met by June next. However, it is not necessary that the thermal plant be installed.

IMPOSITION OF HOUSE TAX ON THE CITIZENS OF JULLUNDUR CITY.

***1699. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any correspondence has been made between the Jullundur Municipal Committee and the Government regarding the imposition of house tax on the citizens of Jullundur city; if so, with what result;

(b) whether the Government has received any representation from the citizens of Jullundur having made a protest against the imposition of the said house tax; if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : (a) Yes, the Tax was imposed with Punjab Government notification No. 6128-c-49/48472, dated the Ist August,1949.

(b) Yes. Certain residents of Jullundur Municipal Area moved a Civil Court challenging the legality of this tax and an injunction order was issued in their favour. As the matter is sub-judice, Government are unable to interfere.

**The Minister for Irrigation being absent the reply to * Q. No. 1697 was given by the Minister for Finance.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister be pleased to state whether any negotiations are going on between the Administrator, Municipal Committee and the citizens on this question at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner?

Minister : The original question contains no mention of this matter. Had it been asked I would have replied to it after having conducted an enquiry into the case.

Shri Ram Kishan : Has the Minister received any reference from the Administrator, Municipal Committee, during the last few days ?

Minister : This information was not asked for in the main Question.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the government have any objection if any such agreement is arrived at between the Administrator, Municipal Committee and the citizens ?

Minister : The term "if" is not incorporated while asking a question.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE *RE* ABSENCE OF A MINISTER FROM THE HOUSE

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Ambala City) : On a point of privilege, Sir. Yesterday it so happened that no Minister was present—not even a single Minister was in his seat—in the House while we were having a discussion. I, therefore, want to have the ruling of the Chair whether or not such absence amounts to disrespect to the House on the part of the Ministers ?

Besides, in connection with the same question, I would like to know if any of the Ministers, while not being present in the House, is entitled to depute any other hon. Member to act on his behalf as a Minister.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, with regard to the querry which the hon. Member from Ambala city has addressed to the Chair, I would like to submit that each Minister has got clear instructions to remain present in the House when his respective subject or department is under discussion or questions are being asked pertaining to the matters falling within his portfolio; unless, of course, his absence is absolutely unavoidable. So far as the presence of each one of them in the House is concerned, I have only to submit that it is neither practicable nor insisted upon in any legislature. For instance, since today's discussion has been confined to the Demand for Irrigation and since we, the other Ministers have to attend to other important business outside the Chamber, it is necessary for the Minister for Irrigation to remain present here. Similarly, other Ministers are also expected to be present when their demands or subjects are under discussion. The second thing is that it is the duty of the Minister concerned to make satisfactory arrangements or depute somebody to have business relating to his departments being transacted during his absence from the House.

Mr. Speaker: I may inform the House that a similar question was raised in the Assam Legislative Assembly too, upon which the hon. Speaker gave his ruling to the effect that each hon. Minister should be present in his seat—especially when the general discussion on the Budget was in progress. The Chief Minister has just now made it clear that the Minister concerned should remain present in the House when his department is under discussion. So far as deputing other hon. Members to act on their behalf is concerned, the House cannot recognise such deputation. This will amount to a purely

[Mr. Speaker]
private arrangement. It is incumbent on the hon. Minister concerned to be present in the House when his department is under discussion. The Chief Minister has now assured us that he will continue such arrangements that the Minister concerned is present in the House at the time when his department is discussed; and I think that after this assurance no ruling is necessary on the point of privilege which has been raised by Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan.

Chief Minister : With your permission, Sir, I want to clarify the position. As submitted by me a short while ago we are going to hold a Cabinet meeting but it has been arranged that the Minister for Irrigation will be present in the House. But suppose, Sir, while our meeting is going on, the Minister for Irrigation has an attack of stomach-ache. In that case he may have to go out for two or three minutes. Will he not be free to go out even in such an eventuality ?

Mr. Speaker : If some Minister has to be unavoidably absent for sometime he should inform the Speaker about it. He should not be free to go out whenever he likes.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan : There is all the more reason for observing this rule because our Speaker is a doctor. (*Laughter*).

Mr. Speaker : The Speaker is not a qualified doctor.

Chief Minister : The word ' Minister' has been defined thus—

> 'Minister means a member of the Council of Ministers and includes any Member to whom such Minister may delegate any function assigned to him under rules.'

Mr. Speaker: But how can the House know that the Minister concerned has delegated his authority to a certain Member ?

Chief Minister : What does the word 'Member' mean ? Member means a member of the Assembly. A Minister can authorise another Minister or any member of the House to act on his behalf. A Member can act for a Minister. He can even make a statement on his behalf if authorised to do so ......

Mr. Speaker : But it should be done with the knowledge of the Chair or the House.

Chief Minister : Nobody can know whether such an arrangement has been made or not unless there is an emergency when a Minister has to delegate his authority to somebody else. When such a contingency arises....

Mr. Speaker: I regret very much to say that the Chief Minister's arguments do not appeal to me.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : I beg to point out, Sir, that when the hon. Minister for Irrigation went out he informed me that he was going out for two minutes only. Khan Sahib insisted that he should be back before the expiry of two minutes. He returned immediately after and expressed regrets for his unavoidable absence for a few minutes.

Chief Minister : I do not challenge the Chair's ruling.

Mr. Speaker : It is not a question of ruling. I have quoted a ruling given by the Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly and I think it should also be followed here. One of the Ministers must be present in the House.

RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSION ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—IRRIGATION (WORKING EXPENSES)—CHARGES ON IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT—IRRIGATION CAPITAL.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will resume discussion on the three demands relating to Irrigation, which were moved yesterday. I call upon Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan to make his speech.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Ambala City) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, we have been discussing the Irrigation, Power and Public Works Departments since yesterday. I have heard with rapt attention the speeches made by the members of my own party as well as by those in the Opposition. On hearing the speeches delivered from the Government Benches I got the impression that complete Ram Rajya had been established and that there was no defect or shortcoming in this department. The Members of the Opposition tried to show by their speeches that there was not even a trace of Ram Rajya but Satan's rule had come to be established. I beg to submit that......

Mr. Speaker : I don't think the hon. Member is entitled to use the words 'Satan's rule.'

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan : If these words are not parliamentary I withdraw them. I want to make a request to the hon. Members on both sides. I shall say to the members of my own party—

हुनरश हमां गुफ्ती ऐबश नीज़ बिगो ।
ਹੁਨਰਸ਼ ਹਮਾਂ ਗੁਫ਼ਤੀ ਐਬਸ਼ ਨੀਜ਼ ਦਿਗੋ

that while referring to virtues they should make a mention of defects and shortcomings also. To the members of the Oppostition I would say-

ऐबश हमां गुफ्ती हुनरश नीज़ बिगो ।
ਅਵ.ਸ਼ ਹਮਾਂ ਗੁਫ਼ਤੀ ਹੁਨਰਸ਼ ਨੀਜ਼ ਬਿਗੋ ।

that while pointing out the defects they should not fail to take notice of good points in a thing. I noticed that while from one side unqualified praises were offered, the other side made a wholesale condemnation.

Shri Sri Chand : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Chief Minis-

[Shri Sri Chand]
ter stated that the Minister for Irrigation would be present in the House when the demand for Irrigation was under discussion but I find....

Mr. Speaker : That objection can be raised if no other Minister is present.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan : Mr. Speaker, one of the Members of the Opposition said that there was a great deal of duplication. He said that there were separate telegraph offices, roads and bungalows for the Irrigation Department. I want to inform the hon. Member that there is always a road alongside a canal. Telegraph offices of the Irrigation Department can also exist side by side with other telegraph offices. Are all the Dak bungalows other than those of the Irrigation Department situated on the banks of canals? There is no canal in my constituency and it appears that the hon. Minister has decided not to get any canal dug there.

Minister for Local Government : Tube-wells will be bored there.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan : I am told that tube- wells will be bored there. I beg to submit that there is nothing objectionable in these things. If my friends are determined to oppose every measure adopted by the Government and not praise anything done by it, that is a different matter. There is a saying that 'you can deceive some people for all time and all people for some time but you cannot deceive all people for all time'. I want to tell the hon. Members who always criticise the Government that such things will not pay in the long run.

Sir, the Irrigation Department has rendered valuable services to the State. Canals are of great use and serve as a n inexhaustible source of supply of water to enrich vast stretches of land and thus help in stepping up agricultural production. These stimulate the growth of crops and help in solving the food problem. On the contrary canals also provide opportunity for the people to commit suicide by drowning.

Minister for Public Works : The hon. Member may avail of this opportunity.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan : Sir, generally speaking the Public Works Department is called the Public Waste Department. I think that if people after experiencing utter frustration commit suicide in canals the responsibility for this lies on the shoulders of the government. Many of my hon. Friends have explained at great length the benefits of canal irrigation and have showered encomiums on the Irrigation Department. I congratulate the hon. Minister on the efficient working of his department. But I would like to draw his attention to the corrupt officers of this department who soil the fair name of this department. As the proverb goes Caesar's wife should be above suspicion. I think that every department of the Government and especially the Irrigation Department should be above suspicion, otherwise the people instead of deriving any benefit therefrom would suffer at its hands. If the officers do not conduct themselves honestly it will cause feelings of frustration in the mind

of the people and they will lose confidence in the Government. The Government has set up a 'Bhrishtacharvi Nashak Committee' for dealing with the corrupt officers. It generally takes action against the petty officials. For example if any peon takes bribe of two or three annas the Government starts a case of corruption against him and gets him convicted by a court of law. But on the contrary if any Engineer of the Irrigation Department accepts 10 per cent of the profit from the contractors, that is not considered corruption and they accept this tainted money with impunity without being slightly troubled by the thought that they are sinning against the law. Shri Rajagopalachari and Pandit Jawahar Lal had once rightly remarked that Public Works Department is the spoilt child of the Government. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to exercise the closest possible vigilance on this department, otherwise it would be idle to expect any good from it.

Besides this, the Government have constructed pucca roads along the side of the canals. Their main purpose is that the Ministers and the Engineers may conveniently travel in motor cars if they have to make inspection of any village. These roads are closed for the use of the general public. I would ask the hon. Minister to visit the ilaqa of Morni and take steps to construct embankments there. He should give special attention to this work.

Now I would like to say something in connection with the supply of electricity. The government should not try to throw lightning on the people and should see that the people derive maximum benefit from the supply of electricity. The hon. Minister often makes speeches in the public and says that he will take steps to reduce the rates of electricity. But I find that the rates fixed by the Government are higher than those of the private companies. If the rates of electricity fixed by the Government are considerably high then how can it produce good effect upon the private companies? I would, therefore, suggest to the Government that in the areas where electrictiy is supplied by the Government the rates of electricity should be scaled down. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker : Before I call upon any other member to speak, I wish to tell the House that it has come to my notice that yesterday when Deputy Speaker was occupying the Chair some of the hon Members addressed him by name. I would, therefore, ask the hon. Members to remember that when I or the Deputy Speaker is occupying the Chair they should address the occupant of the Chair not by his name but by his designation

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon (Jhabal) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I think that there is no scope for criticism on this demand. I have only to offer my congratulations to the hon. Minister formally because I think that he must be congratulated as the government is in a position to defend itself on this demand. When the ambitious scheme of Bhakra Project has been put into execution, when the work of excavation of canals is in progress, when the schemes of drainage have been drawn up, when tube-wells are being sunk to provide irrigation to several lakh acres of land, when energetic efforts are being made to step-up agricultural production in the State then nobody will like to direct criticism against the government especially when the minister incharge is an

[Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon]

intelligent and ready-witted person. I do not mean to cast any reflection on the hon. Minister by using the work 'ready-witted' for him but it is only by way of admiration of his qualities that I have used this complimentary remark.

Last year I along with some zamindars of my village met the hon. Minister in deputation at Simla in connection with a case of breach of canal. The zamindars seemed to be very impatient to see the hon. Minister. The Minister called them and asked them "Do you want moga?" The zamindars were very much pleased to hear this and forgot their own case of breach of canal and said promptly "Yes, Sir". The Minister seemed to be in a happy and agreeable mood and remarked that he would give three mogas and not one. The zamindars were overjoyed to hear the Minister say this and came out highly satisfied. After a few days the zamindars again met the hon. Minister and told me that in spite of his assurance that three mogas would be sanctioned for their village only one had been sanctioned. He replied that he had asked the officers but the pity of it is that the bania officers are very much calculating. (*Laughter*).

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh) : On a point of personal explanation Sir. The hon. Member is not giving the correct version of the talk that I had with him. I am incharge of a very important Department and I never uttered the work "Kirar" for any Officer. He should not take it lightly.

Mr. Speaker : He is simply giving an explanation.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : Sir, my submission is that instead of Irrigation Department, other important departments such as Education, Transport and Consolidation should have been allowed to be discussed since there was not much need for debating upon the working of this Department.

Mr. Speaker : Will you too have to be asked to be relevant ?

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : In my opinion all that has been said about corruption is not true. The centre of corruption continues to shift from time to time. Some time it is to be found in one Department and some time in another Department but the tradition persists. Since we move and live among the zamindars we know of only that form of corruption in which they are involved along with the officials of the Irrigation Department. No concrete proof has so far been adduced about the prevalence of that form of corruption to which Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has referred as 'Shiri-Madar'. This allegation is current as a rumour. I cannot say how much truth it contains. I shall refer to what I know as a consequence of my coming into contact with the zamindars. I must say at the outset that the officers of this Department who are posted in Amritsar District are very hard-working and are performing their duties fearlessly.This is evident from the fact that water is being regularly given to the zamindars whose land is just near the border and it is reaching the extreme ends of the State territory. The hon. Chief Minister and the Irrigation Minister have seen with their own eyes the deligence and care with which a bund is being constructed near the border.

Now, Sir, I just want to explain how due to certain procedural defects every small opportunity is being taken hold of to indulge in corruption. fI some changes are made in the procedure, I am sure corruption can be checked to a very large extent. The farmers get an opportunity to offer bribes and the officials to accept them at the time when the supply of water is to begin, or

when chakbandi is to be done or when a new outlet is to be provided. The officials who are in the know of the proposed enforcement of a new scheme send advance information to the zamindars concerned and let it be given out that if they would make a little effort, the officials would be glad to help them. Such a hint is considered sufficent. This is the traditional *modus operandi* of the officials of the Department. On the receipt of such a hint, three or four farmers pool their resources and manage to send a few tins of ghee, bags of 'shakar' or cartloads of hay to the residence of the officer concerned. I know of several officers who are averse to the taking of such illegal gratification but who are made to accept them by the farmers who are used to making such "offerings". The honest officers find it very difficult to put off such persons. Even if the officers at the head are honest m n, the subordinate officials do manage to have illegal offerings made to them by the zamindars at the time of *Warabandi*, remodelling and when an outlet has to be widened. This kind of corruption can be uprooted only if non-officials are associated with the officials when such a work has to be executed as I have mentioned just now . At the time of settling the *Warabandi* of a village, the leading men of the village must be consulted. This will not only eliminate the opportunities of corruption but the cause of quite a number of disputes among the villagers on the issue of supply of water.

I have heard of a new development in my ilaqa. This is something unprecedented though I cannot say whether the information I have got about it is correct or not. I have heard people complaining that more water is being supplied to the *ilaqas* from which the Ministers hail as compared with the other parts of the District and that the same is the case with the minors that are being dug. Besides this, people are wondering why in some canals water was supplied for one week, while in some others the supply was continued for two weeks and in some other cases for three weeks. They are under the impression that probably the officers concerned have done this kind of irregularity with a view to flatter or win the favour of the Ministers who are never tired of advising us to continue to discharge our duties properly. The Superintending Engineer had given me a lengthy explanation about the alleged irregularities committed in regard to *warabandi* and had promised to satisfy me about this matter. I too have got quite a number of facts on the basis of which I can say that he cannot explain away these irregularities in a satisfactory manner. What I am concerned about is the reputation of the Government which is likely to be affected adversely if this impression of the people gets confirmed that even in the matter of water-supply the leading men are taking undue advantage.

During their visit to some border areas, the hon. Chief Minister and the hon. Minister for Irrigation were so much pleased to see the morale of the people living there that they had promised to supply canal water to them within two months. A very trifling matter is hindering the implementation of this promise and that is the demand of the Bhain Rajputs, whose village lies *en route*, for an outlet for their use. If this demand is accepted by the hon. Minister for Irrigation, canal water will reach those poor people living at the border and instead of indulging in unlawful activities like smuggling they will take to agriculture. The supply of water will thus result in their social amelioration also.

Then, Sir, I would urge upon the Government, to take notice of the agitation existing on account of the disparity obtaining in the grades of the Zildars and overseers and take steps to grant parity of treatment to them in all matters.

[Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon]

Now, I wish to say a few words about the water-rate. Members of the Opposition as well as the Congress Party have expressed their views on this subject. The hon. Minister should not feel offended by those views. False sense of prestige should not prevent him from admitting true facts. We are well aware of the circumstances under which water-rate was increased. At present we are not concerned with the question whether that increase was justified or not. The fact is that on the basis of our Election manifesto we are committed to its reduction. We made a promise with the people that we would reduce it and the reduction of only seven lakhs of rupees which the Government has made will not satisfy the peasants. We cannot defend non-reduction of water-rate. Its reduction was the main plank on which we fought elections. We should therefore fulfil the promise made by us. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.

Shrimati Dr Parkash Kaur (Ramdas) (*Punjabi*) : Mr Speaker, about 80 per cent of the population of this State lives in villages and its main stay is agriculture. It is a well-known fact that agriculture depends on irrigation which is, as a matter of fact, its very life and soul. It is for this reason that the Irrigation Department occupies a place of great importance. (*Cheers*). I am pleased to notice that this department is not sitting idle but is doing very useful work.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : On a point of order, Sir. The Minister concerned is again absent from the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : He is soon coming back.

Shrimati Parkash Kaur : Mr. Speaker, I never interrupt any hon. Member and shall request the hon. Members not to interrupt me while I am speaking.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I will not allow any intterruption.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : Mr. Speaker, I was submitting that any free country would be proud of the work which has been done and is being done by our Irrigation Department (*Cheers*). Every inhabitant of the Punjab, whether he is a man, woman or child knows that work on the Bhakra Dam Project is being carried on. I take delight in the fact that it is our good fortune that the work on Bhakra Project is making headway during the regime of the present Ministry Fortunate indeed are the people who will be benefited by this Project. Other minor schemes of irrigation are also making progress at the same rate at which work is going on in connection with the Bhakra Project. I beg to submit, Sir, that just as every mother considers her son to be a hero, the inhabitants of a place consider that scheme to be the most important which is intended for their good. A few days back the Governor stated in the course of his speech that 14,000 acres of land are to be brought under cultivation in two years with the help of the Western Jumna Canal. I think that for the inhabitants of that area the Western Jumna Canal is as important as Bhakra Project is for others. Similarly the Upper Bari Doab Canal and Madhopur headworks are of great importance to the inhabitants of districts Amritsar and Gurdaspur. I am glad that the Irrigation Department brought one and a half lakh acres of more land under irrigation last year. During this year water is being supplied to a still larger area viz., two lakh acres. In Majitha area

in which my constituency is situated, one and a half lakh acres of land are being brought under irrigation this year. This is the pace at which work is being done in Majitha area. So far as other places covered by the Upper Bari Doab Canal are concerned I think that still more work must have been done or is being done for irrigating land.

Mr. Speaker, the speed at which work is being done in my constituency makes me believe that water would be available in the canal by the end of this year. This is nothing short of a miracle. Even those persons who at one time held the view that this department was doing no work have now begun to admit that if there is any department which is doing work for the real good of the people it is this department. Undoubtedly, the work done by this department has enabled us to raise our heads and to stand before the masses with confidence and pride (*Cheers*). I congratulate the Government, the Irrigation Department, its Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and other staff in general and Mr. Jain in particular for the work done by them in the matter of the completion of Irrigation Schemes for the good of the peasants.

Then, Sir, I am proud of the fact that in the matter of his tours hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh evinced considerable interest in district Amritsar. The public of that place feels that the hon. Minister has done great service to them. The public has begun to realise that they have their own Government and that they get justice from it. (*Cheers*). I congratulate hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh on this achievement.

Mr. Speaker, while we are grateful to the Government for the good work done by it we have certain difficulties towards which I wish to draw the hon. Minister's attention. There are some canal rules which need to be amended. Whenever a breach occurs on the bank of a canal it is shown as a cut by the officials of the Irrigation Department and instead of compensating the peasants whose fields are damaged they impose penalties in order to conceal their own mistake. The people come to know about it when penalty is actually imposed on them. The patwaris go to the village concerned and obtain the signatures of the peasants by misrepresenting the contents of the paper which they are made to sign. The illiterate peasants do not know the meaning of the contents of the document they sign and they are unable to appeal to the Commissioner in time and get justice from him. Therefore, I suggest that Patwaris, Ziladars, Deputy Collectors and other officers of the Irrigation Department should be placed under the Deputy Commissioners. This will enable the people to get justice in the matter of disputes regarding cuts and breaches. My second suggestion in this connection is that before imposing a penalty, the Executive Engineer should serve a notice on the peasants at whose lands a cut is alleged to have been made to appear on a certain date and explain their position. The peasants should have the right of being represented on the fixed date by their counsel. This will save the innocent persons from coming to harm and the guilty will feel discouraged from making cuts in future. The peasants will in this manner get the right of appeal to the Commissioner also.

Then, Sir, in my constituency there is a village known as Ghonewal. It is situated on the bank of a river with the result that a large area of land of that village has been washed away by it. Only seven hundred acres of land are left. However, land revenue is still being realized in respect of the land which has been washed away. This realization is not proper and it should be stopped. Moreover, as the village is situated on the border, the peasants living there are quite idle. I would suggest to the Government to give uncultivated

[Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur]
land in villages Kamalpur and Suhjaka which are a little away from the border, to the inhabitants of Village Ghonewal after declaring them refugees. These lands have been allotted to some refugees but-they have not been taken possession of as these are situated on the border. These are, therefore, lying uncultivated.

Besides this bunds should be constructed there as crops are damaged by the floods every year.

My second suggestion is this that between the Nullah Kiran or Saki and the Ravi an area of about one thousand acres is lying waste. During the regime of the last Ministry when Dr. Gopi Chand toured that area I requested him that tube-wells should be installed in that area and he was good enough to promise that the Government would soon consider this suggestion. But so far nothing has been done in this connection by the Government. I would request Chaudhri Sahib to arrange the survey of this area and take necessary steps for making it cultivable.

I have to make a suggestion about the 'Khalasis'. If we look at the Budget we find that the other departments do not have so many peons as this department has. I am of the opinion that Khalasis are not required. This department has 1,100 Khalasis and a sum of rupees seven lakhs is spent on them. This expenditure should be avoided. Some friends may say that such a step will give rise to unemployment. I would tell them that they are never to be found in employment and therefore the question of unemployment does not arise. This sum of rupees seven lakhs must be saved.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to make another suggestion. The horse allowance should be discontinued. A Ziladar gets a sum of ninety rupees per month for this purpose. He gets allowance for two horses, one for his riding and the other for carrying load. But then no Ziladar maintains a horse. I think that at the most he may be given a cycle allowance. If we discontinue the horse allowance we can effect a saving of rupees eleven or twelve lakhs. This sum is being unnecessarily wasted.

Another submission is in connection with the new canals which are being constructed in my district. The district officers had approached the Government of India with the request that syphons should be set up underneath the railway bridges so that water may not damage the crops. Now water is about to flow in the two new canals which are being constructed. The Ministers should kindly see that this difficulty is removed. It is their job as the expenditure on the bridges underneath the railway lines is to be incurred by the Punjab Government and the Government of India has only to accord its sanction. In these circumstances I would request the Minister for Irrigation and the Chief Minister that they should very kindly do the needful.

I have also to make a submission in connection with the water which is being supplied to Pakistan. What is the reason that there has been no move by the Punjab Government in this direction ? In the Inter-Dominion Pact it was provided that if and when required the Punjab Government could discontinue supply of this water. Don't we require water now ? The Government should attend to this matter. There could have been an excuse in the past but now all arrangements have been made. If we discontinue the supply by three hundred cusecs every year, we shall take about six or seven years to do this work. We should make a start just now.

I won't talk much about corruption as a lot had been said yesterday by the hon. Members of this House. I would just read out a few lines from this pamphlet. They say magic requires no proof. This is what has been said about an S.D.O.

> "He enjoys a self-awarded title of a Rai Sahib and rolls in wealth in a few year's service. Even a Minister of the State does not enjoy these facilities and may be poorer in financial position."

From this we can get some estimate of the Department. I won't elaborate the point but would only say that the Government should take a severe notice of these things. I think it is good to have inventories of property from the Government servants before as also during the course of their service. The Government should know as to how much of landed property, house property, and bank balance either in their own names or in the names of their children, they had when they entered service and all that they owned during service and at the time of their retirement. That would clearly show the conduct of the Government servants. I would go to the extent of saying that even the M.L.A's should be included among them as such inquiries will definitely eradicate corruption. I don't want to say anything more in this connection.

Sir, mention has been made of "*wadh watar*" in this House. People of my district in particular have greatly suffered from this, and I must draw the attention of my Government to this fact. I assert that when a zamindar does not receive any additional supply of water for an additional crop, the department has no business to charge land revenue for that crop. It is obviously unfair and the Government should do something in this connection. This is what is particularly happening in District Amritsar. I earnestly request that the Government should attend to it.

Now I have to make a submission about Nakhasu, that is, the rain water which destroys the crops. The Amritsar District has to face this problem every year. Ever since 1950 requests have been made that arrangements should be made for the digging of Nakhasu but work could not be undertaken for want of funds. It is a matter of pleasure that last year Chaudhri Sahib visited the place himself and saw the disappointment of the zamindars at the destruction of their crops. It was suggested that this problem should be solved by public co-operation. At this the people took to the digging operations themselves and the officers encouraged them. The work was begun from the Wadala Weerum Drain. The work is about to be completed in this week and for this I wish to congratulate Chaudhri Sahib. It was due to the interest he took that the people were so much encouraged. I have also to congratulate those people who so enthusiastically engaged themselves in the digging operations. I should also not forget to congratulate the officers, as for example, the Deputy Commissioner, the Tehsildar, Revenue Assistant, Police and the Publicity Officers who were good enough to give a proper lead to the people. Congratulations are also due to the public workers and the public who have zealously accomplished the task. I would now request the Government that next work should be started at Kotla Sultan Singh Jajiani Drain in Police Station Majitha. The work should begin after the harvest. The people are prepared to offer their services for the digging operations.

Shri Maru Singh Malik (Sampla) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, the demand before the House is of very great importance as on it depends the prosperity of the State, and my opinion is that even a larger amount of money would be justified for this purpose. At the same time I must impress upon the Government the necessity of keeping a watchful eye on the utilization of the money earmarked for the purpose. What I mean to submit is that the Government should see that the money allotted for the purpose is not misused as has already been pointed out both by the Opposition and the Congress members. They are all of the opinion that corruption should be eradicated from the Government offices.

As you know, Sir, a great part of the revenues of our State is derived from the *abiana*. I would like to submit that the question of *abiana* has become of the utmost importance in our State. When the *abiana* was for the first time increased during the regime of the previous Government the Congress Party had raised its voice against it. Mr. Speaker, now a year has passed that their own Government was established in this State as you had kindly stated....

Mr. Deputy Speaker : It was not stated by me as the Deputy Speaker but as Gurdial Singh.

Shri Maru Singh Malik : All right, Sir, it has been stated by the hon. Member of Amritsar Constituency that it was promised in the Congress manifesto that the *abiana* which had been increased by 50 per cent would be reduced to the minimum. Before the *abiana* was increased an amount to the tune of Rs. 1,24 lakhs was being realised from the people but consequent upon the increase an amount of the order of Rs. 1,98 lakhs was received in the State Exchequer. Last year an income of Rs 2,23 lakhs was estimated for the first time but after wards at the time of Supplementary Estimates it was found that a sum of Rs 2,35 lakhs was received as *abiana*, whereas the remission that had been granted was only for 7 lakhs of rupees. It is a useless remission. The Kisans of our State are overburdened with the brunt of various taxes like land revenue, water charges, betterment charges, etc. They are hard up and cannot make both ends meet, and if a new tax is imposed upon them it will break their backs.

Mr. Speaker, the other point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Minister for Irrigation is this. As a rule *abiana* is chargeable at half rates on all these lands which are irrigated by well installed before 1938 and at full rates on those lands which are irrigated by well constructed after that year. That concession exists more on papers than in practice. This is most unfair to the poor peasants. This fact has been brought many times to the notice of the officers of the Government of India. Last year the Minister of Irrigation had said that *abiana* at half rates was charged but I want to state for his information that *abiana* at full rates is charged in that case also. Government is not administering justice to these people.

The next point is that if a field in which *chari* or *jwar* is sown is watered at the time of harvest and the gram are sown in the same field Government charges *abiana* for both kharif and rabi crops. I submit, Sir, that the *abiana* in such cases should be charged for only one crop.

Then, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister concerned something about waterlogging. In many villages of Sonepat, Gohana and Hissar, *kisans* are deserting their own lands because of waterlogging and are purchasing lands elsewhere. Government should take immediate steps in

this direction otherwise the whole area will be ruined. The same is the case with the Anta Gharwal Canal.

Then, Sir, I would state that none of the employees of the Land Reclamation Department has been confirmed so far. I request that all of them may be confirmed. Next, Sir, one thing is essential to root out corruption from the State. I would request Chaudhri Sahib not to get angry with me on this point. Ruralites are under the impression that if they present a purse to him they would soon get a *moga*. In this connection I would like to bring to his notice that two *mogas* were sanctioned in April, 1952, for the villages of Nasibpur Bangar and some others but they have not been constructed up to this day. Some other *mogas* which were sanctioned afterwards have been constructed. This fact has given rise to an impression in their minds that if they offer a purse to the Minister for Irrigation when he goes on a tour their *mogas* would soon be constructed. I would request him not to accept any purses from the people who have applied for *mogas*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : How does the hon. Member know that people offer purses to the Minister for Irrigation ?

Shri Maru Singh Malik : This is the general impression of the people.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur) (*Hindi*) **:** Sir, the irrigation demand is at present under discussion. I have listened to the speeches of my hon. Friends and have tried to judge them by the words they have spoken. I have also listened to the speeches of my friends belonging to the Akali Party who are not now in their seats and also the speeches of the members of the Zamindara Party who have gone to the lobbies. I have also listened to the speeches of my Communist friends. They have made reference to the plans which have been supplied to all the members by the hon. Minister for Irrigation.

Minister for Irrigation : Through you, Sir, I would ask my hon. Friend Chaudhri Maru Singh not to leave the chamber and listen to the reply to the points raised by him in his speech.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I feel that it is of no use complaining against the hon. Members for making such speeches. They do so because they consider them as favourable opportunities for spreading their ideology among the poor and hungry. They know that it is poverty, exploitation and hunger which can invite communism in the State. Thus they make their headway by exploiting the discontent among the public. Whenever these people see that the government is bending all its energies to raise the standard of living of the people in order to give social stability to the common man they feel greatly disappointed because communism cannot make an inroad into this State where there is no hunger and poverty. From the efforts that have been made by the government one can reasonably conclude that it will be able to liquidate poverty in the State and will bring about such conditions as to make this State the centre of prosperity. Sir, if this government continues to remain in power for some years more then keeping in view the way in which it is laying a net-work of canals and the speedy execution of the Bhakra Project and the programmes which the government has laid before the public and the spirit in which it is working out those programmes, I think there will be no reason for any man to raise the slogan of communism.

[Shri Parbodh Chandra]

I have been rather surprised to hear those hon. Members making criticism against the Government who have no faith in the ideology of communism. They have laid stress on two or three points. They have remarked that the hon. Minister for Irrigation has only plans to show and nothing else. I would like to draw their attention to the Governor's address in which he has remarked that during the last four years the government has been able to provide water to 15 lakhs acres of land. They might doubt the veracity of this statement by saying that he is also the head of our government. I would then remind them of the conditions in our State in the year 1947 when our State was faced with acute food shortage and the people were consuming American wheat. It is just possible that my friends may not have used that wheat because they do not like anything American. But they must have seen that wheat. What I want to drive at is that our food position at that time was very delicate and we had to import food from foreign countries. Now the position is that our State is surplus in foodgrains. Only recently our government has sent 60,000 tons of wheat to Rajasthan. After meeting the requirements of the State it is now in a position to export foodgrains to other parts of the country. My hon. Friends should know that there has been phenomenal increase in the production of foodgrains.

Then I will ask my hon. Friends to pay a visit to the Bhakra-Nangal Project and see how the American Engineers are busy speeding up the construction of this great undertaking. Perhaps my hon. Friends may not like to see the American Engineers as the very name of America is to them just like a red rag to a bull. They will see that the idea which at first originated in the mind of the Late Sir Chhotu Ram is now being implemented by our government. I would submit that the very name of Chaudhri Lahri Singh indicates that he will bring waves of water into the dry regions of the State for the good of the people.

The second objection which has been raised by the hon. Members is with regard to corruption which is prevalent in this department. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Sri Chand went to the length of saying that galvanised iron sheets worth 55 lakhs of rupees have been stolen from the Bhakra Dam works. It appears that he is labouring under some misunderstanding with regard to this figure. He is under the impression that zero digit has no value and it makes no difference by adding one zero to a figure. He must know that with the addition of one zero to a figure it makes a lot of difference. The hon. Members may judge for themselves how my hon. Friend is playing with their sentiments by making wrong propaganda against the government that material worth Rs. 55,00,000 has been stolen from the Bhakra Dam works. I would say that this charge is absolutely baseless.

Then, Sir, it has been remarked that in America canal water is supplied to the zamindars in measured quantities. But according to my hon. Friends, as the Punjabi proverb goes,

ਚੋਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਕਪੜੇ ਤੇ ਡਾਂਗਾਂ ਦੇ ਗਜ਼ चोरां दे कपड़े ते डागां दे गज़

the stolen cloth is being measured by "dangs". My hon. Friend goes step further and says

ਚੋਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਕਪੜੇ ਫਰਲਾਂਗਾਂ ਦੇ ਗਜ਼ चोरां दे कपड़े ते फरलागां दे गज़

I think that he even does not know that water is not measured in square feet but in cusecs. I may tell him that our government does not like to waste even a single drop of water.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : The hon. Member is making a wrong statement.

Mr Deputy Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member to resume his seat and not interrupt the hon. Member who is speaking.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I did not like to interrupt the hon. Members sitting on the Opposition Benches while they were making their speeches and I also expect now that nobody should cause any interruption while I am speaking. But their attitude compels me to pass some remarks against them which I never like. I am not like them who would apologise after saying something. I would ask them to desist from making interruptions or they should not complain if the same treatment is offered to them from this side of the House. They should realise that we have all been through this game.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should proceed with his speech on the demand.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Then, Sir, it has been remarked that American Engineers have been engaged for the construction of Bhakra Dam. I would submit that in the execution of big undertakings the government should not be influenced by the consideration of nationality while engaging experts. I would say that though our ideology totally differs from that of Russia yet we would not hestitate to utilise the services of even Russian experts. I would ask my friends, did the Russian Government not employ American experts when it had undertaken the construction of Hydro Electric Dam in its own country ?

I wish to invite your attention towards China. In connection with the Dam which is in progress Mao Tse Tung has observed that its accomplishment will bring a radical change in the economic conditions in the country. It will usher in a new era of prosperity and no trace of poverty will be found in their land. I would like to enquire of my hon. Friends sitting opposite whether it is not a fact that for the execution of this Dam the government of China, whose entire political set up is based on the Communist ideology, is not asking for the assistance of foreign experts ? I, therefore, request my hon. Friends to get rid of this American phobia.

Today our country is passing through very critical conditions. It is, therefore, required of them, too, to divert their energies and power towards its reconstruction rather than level hollow and unintelligent criticism devoid of any understanding. Just as my hon. Friend Shri D.D. Puri remarked yesterday, I repeat the offer to Russia to give us assistance on the same terms which have been agreed to by America. We shall be very pleased to accept such an offer. But we know that we cannot expect such magnificent help from a country which could not part with an ounce of foodgrains in the time of our need. When negotiations were started with Russia for obtaining food assistance for the famine-stricken people of Madras, Mr. Speaker, you might remember that they showed reluctance to give that assistance unless the foodgrains were distributed amongst the people through their own Party organisation and the Trade Union Congress.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : On a point of order, Sir. . . .

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I do not give way. Please sit down.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : But he can raise a point of order.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : May I know as to what connection Russia has with this Demand ?

Sri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, this demand has the same relevancy with Russia's attitude as it has with the Opposition to the employment of American experts. Since this dicussion relates to the Department of Irrigation and since according to the opinion of these hon. Friends of mine a major portion of the provision relating to this demand is spent on the salaries of the American experts, it was, necessary for me to place before you the government 's view point on the employment of these American experts.

Apart from that a good deal has been said with regard to the corruption rampant in this department. I do not say that there is no trace of corruption in the department. Just as the Chief Minister stated, I would also submit that we took over the reins of administration in an atmosphere where corruption prevailed, we got in legacy a part of this evil practice, as well. But what we have to examine is whether, as compared with the past, this practice is on the increase or decrease. If it is on the increase, my hon. Friends are justified in accusing the government and carrying out a propaganda against it. Otherwise, it does not behove them to indulge in baseless criticism. I would rather go to the length of saying that they are permitted to shoot down any officer, Minister or Member if they are convinced that he is corrupt. But I am sorry to say that the people, who complained of the existence of corruption in the administration are not themselves honest at heart. Our Akali Friends also complain against the prevalence of corruption in the administrative machinery. It is their habit to ask that action be taken against an officer if he happens to be a member of the Hindu Community, but when action is contemplated against any Sikh Officer they say that the government is bent upon suppressing their community. If any action is intended to be taken against the Sikh Engineer who is alleged to have deposited huge sums of money in American Banks, they will come forward with the complaint that a Sikh Officer is harassed. Therefore, I say that corruption will record a further increase if the cases are viewed from the communal point of view. If it is desired that corruption should be eradicated, if it is wished that there should not be any dishonest or corrupt official in the administration, it would first be necessary to get rid of communal outlook.

Then, I wish to enquire another thing of these hon. Members. I would like to know whether any of their kith and kin is employed in any government office ? I would like to know whether any hon. Member—lady or gentlemen—has so far asked the government to take action against his or her brother, son or relative, who is corrupt ? My submission is that corruption cannot be rooted out unless and until all of us are determined not to feel reluctant even in taking action against our own kith and kin who are found to be indulging in corrupt practices.

Now I advert to the question of '*abiana*'. In this connection, too, it has been remarked that we have not acted on the promises which we held out with regard to its reduction. Particularly my Jat Friend made such an observation. I wish to refresh his memorry by saying that the rate of '*abiana*' was increased in the year 1934 when the government of the peasants and the Zamindars was at the helm of affairs in this State. That was the time when the price of foodgrains was 1/3 of what it is today. The then government felt it necessary to enhance the '*abiana*'. If we look to other States like Uttar-Pradesh, Bihar etc. we shall come to know that the 'water rates' are still going to be increased there. But I think that in view of the circumstances obtaining at present when the expenses are on the increase and when there is an acute scarcity of foodgrains in the country, our government have made a very sympathetic gesture by effecting a reduction in the rate of '*abiana*.'

Besides, do my hon. Friends Opposite know as to who contributes money through taxes and who raises those taxes ? It is one and the same people. The peasants contribute money and their accredited representatives who run the Government collect it by way of taxes. But all this money flows back to the peasants in some other shape bacause their Government spends it on their welfare. So the peasants do not hand over their money as taxes to any private person. They do not put their money even in the pockets of Chaudhri Lahri Singh. Whatever they contribute goes back to them as that money is spent on their betterment. I think that they do not pay undue taxes. I, therefore, urge upon these hon. Members to advance constructive suggestions. They should listen to whatever the people say with rapt attention and open ears. If they read newspaper—but I think that they would hardly get time to do so—they would come to know how our brethren in thousands are busy contributing their mite in the construction of '*bunds*' (बान्ध). Today I have in my possession a letter wherein the Communist Friends have expressed their resentment at the Government having derived benefit from their own publicity with the beat of drums which was calculated to instigate the people to loot the heaps of foodgrains. Their axe will not be ground if the '*bund*' is constructed. In the circumstances, I am to submit that it will not benefit the country if my Friends are inspired by such like sentiments. We are responsible for the good and prosperity of the people. We should think in terms of their good. On behalf of the government I wish to assure the House that all its steps are directed towards banishing hunger and poverty from our land.

Sardar Hari Singh (Dasuya) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, due consideration, has been given to this department since yesterday. Neither do I intend to make any criticism like the Members of the Opposition nor do I want to avail of this opportunity like the Friend hailing from Rewari to plead and advocate for the construction of a canal in the area. I have risen only to say one thing. It is the privilege of my district that Bhakra and Nangal Dams are being constructed in it. They are the dams the completion of which will usher in a new era of prosperity in our State. The waters of these dams will not only go to yield bumper crops in the State with the result that we shall not be required to import foreign grains but also place it in a position to come to the aid of other States and remove their hunger. But , Sir, I would say that if my hon. Friends happen to visit our district of Hoshiarpur they will be pained to know of the devastation done by the *chos* there. I do not make a demand such as have been made by the hon. Members hailing from other districts; for it is natural that everybody would ventilate the hardships felt in his respective area and request to get them removed. But I would only submit that a very vast area in this district is lying undeveloped. This is a problem which calls for a special attention on the part of the government. I also associate myself with the views of an hon. Member that Bist Doab canal should be given more quantity of water so that more villages be benefited from it. Besides, the question of Shah Nahar is also such as warrants a special attention. The position is that the demands of the people can be met only if nine or ten times the present volume of water is allowed to flow in it. Within a radius of thirty miles from Dasuya there flows a stream whose water can be supplied to the people by constructing a *bund*,over it so that there may be a good rice harvest which may help the refugees to settle in that area.

I want to refer to another matter. One of the hon. Members said that there was corruption in this department. I beg to submit that if the hon. Minister takes accounts under his own control the complaint regarding corruption in this department would end.

[Sardar Hari Singh]

In the end, Sir, I beg to point out that on account of the existence of *chos*, canals cannot be dug in my district. In view of this difficulty the Government should supply electricity to that area so that tube-wells may be bored and the people living there may make progress. "*Kandi*" area is lying barren. Before partition, Muslims produced many things there,but on account of the shortage of water for even drinking purposes nobody goes to settle there now. If water is supplied with the help of tube-wells, the people will go there and try to derive the maximum benefit from that land.

I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views and I request the hon. Minister not to ignore my district.

Shri Chandi Ram Varma (Abohar) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, a good deal has been said by the hon. Members about the progress made by our State. A reference was made in the Governor's address and also in the speeches made during general discussion of the Budget to the work that is at present being done in the State. In my opinion adequate words cannot be found to express our gratitude to hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh for the work done by this department. I want to associate myself with those who have congratulated the hon. Minister over it. Our long cherished dream of Bhakra Dam Project is going to be realised. The hon. Ministers as well the hon. Members should take delight in the fact that this work is being done during the term of office of the present Ministry.

As regards the demand under discussion, I beg to submit that every penny that can be had should be spent for the good of the State. It would have been still better if a bigger sum had been asked for under this Head because such things alone can bring about prosperity in the State. So far as the progress and prosperity of this State are concerned I congratulate the hon. Minister for the work done by him.

I wish to refer to one or two matters more. In Districts Ferozepore, Gurdaspur and Amritsar the supply of water for *Kharif* commences in April. As sugarcane is sown in March it would be better if water is supplied from the 15th of March. If these canals are made perennial, these would considerably help the State to make progress. Not only will there be increase in the production of food, but we will also be able to have more fodder for our cattle.

Then, Sir, I learn that the temporary outlets which the Government sanctioned some time back are going to be discontinued now. I shall request the Government to continue these as their stoppage will have an adverse effect on the Grow-More-Food Scheme.

As pointed out by some hon. Members, this department is overstaffed. It has three Chief Engineers whose names are Messrs Handa, Sood and Gupta. I have no personal grudge against them nor am I acquainted with them,but I must say that the Government should examine whether there is really any necessity of having so many Chief Engineers. A large sum of money is being spent on them. It would be better to have three Under-Secretaries instead of three Chief Engineers. At present a Chief Engineer is also a Secretary to the Government and in that capacity he prepares the Budget which he has to spend himself. There can be no check on expenditure under the present system. I think that the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and some other States have tried to solve this problem. Our Government too should examine this problem by inviting expert opinion. Just as the number of Commissioners has been reduced by one, I think that work in the Irrigation Department can be adjusted and economy effected if the posts of Superintending Engineers are abolished.

Then, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to a difficulty which the inhabitants of my constituency have to experience. I have been returned from Abohar in District Ferozepore. As this places is situated on the Pakistan border sufficient water is not available there from the tails of the canals. The people living there always complain that as the place is situated at the tail of the canal, a large quantity of silt deposits in the canals and adequate supply of water cannot be had. Whenever we request the Government to remove silt we are told that it has been removed. The hon. Members, however, are aware of corruption which exists in such matters. It is no use repeating this thing but it cannot be denied that there is great corruption in this department. The Government should depute some honest officer for its eradication.

A dishonest officer cannot eradicate this evil because his appointment for that work would be like setting a thief to catch a thief.

Then, Sir, a Control Board has been constituted for the execution of the Bhakra Dam Scheme. Though the future of the State depends on the completion of that project yet our Minister has no voice in the matter. A meeting of the Bhakra Control Board is being held today also and decisions affecting the fate of this State are being taken. The Minister concerned should have an effective voice in the deliberations of that Board. I hope that the Government will give careful consideration to the suggestions made by me.

Sardar Jogindar Singh (Dera Baba Nanak) (*Punjabi*) *:* Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for Irrigation and the staff of that department on providing this year four times more water to the land in my constituency as compared with the last year. On account of the regular and adequate supply of water the yield of the rice crop has increased six times of what it was in Dera Baba Nank. Before this large tracts of land in this *ilaqa* were lying waste and uninhabited but with the extension of facilities for irrigation these have been brought under the plough. While I congratulate the hon. Minister for his energetic efforts to supply water to our land, I consider it my duty to bring to his notice the complaints of the people of my *ilaqa*. Sometime back the people of many villages in my *ilaqa* had volunteered their services for excavating two minors in villages Ramdas and Hardorawal and it is all due to their efforts that these minors have been excavated but I am sorry to say that meagre supply of water is made available to these minors with the result that the zamindars of those villages are not satisfied with this inadequate supply of water. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister that in these villages where the people have excavated the minors by self-help and have given land for this purpose, the government should give them an adequate supply of water. In my *ilaqa* the canals only flow for a period of six months and so the people have to make requests for temporary shoots for irrigating their lands. It is frequently observed that unless the zamindars grease the palms of patwaris or ziladars their request for temporary shoots is not granted. In these circumstances, I would request the government that instead of releasing water in the canal for six months or allowing temporary shoots it should make arrangement for giving an assured water supply by means of permanent *mogas*. The zamindars in my *ilaqa* sometime do not get water for their land, still the notice to pay '*abiana*' is received by them. I would, request the hon. Minister that '*abiana*' should not be charged on the "cost of service principle" but on the basis of "benefit principle," that is, the government should keep an account of the quantity of water supplied to each zamindar and assess the irrigation charges on that basis.

[Sardar Jogindar Singh]

People of my *ilaqa* have another grievance in regard to *Wad Wattar.* The Government supplies water for one crop and charges water rate in respect of the second crop also for which no water is supplied but which grows up with the help of the moisture already present in the soil. By this practice the zamindars undergo the risk of wasting their seeds if they do not sow the next crop in time. I would, therefore, request the government that it should not charge '*abiana*' for the second crop from the zamindars. Besides this I would like to point out to the government that large tracts of land in my *ilaqa* are lying waste. The residents of this *ilaqa* are prepared to volunteer their services for the excavation of minors. In this connection they have already submitted their applications to the Department. I would request the Government to accede to their request and order its officers to make layout plans and specifications for the minors so that water may be made available to the zamindars of this *ilaqa* in order to step-up agricultural production.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Baghapurana) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the Irrigation Department has been under discussion since yesterday. We know that when the work of construction of canals was undertaken by the Government in the year 1882 it involved an expenditure of 42 crores of rupees. Since then the gain to the revenues of the Government from the income from water rates has been remarkable, that is, 180 crores of rupees. But even now we find that our Government is under heavy debt and it has paid Rs 5,50 lakhs by way of interest on loans. The Government had increased the income from '*abiana*' to the tune of Rs. 84 lakhs but subsequently reduced the rate of '*abiana*' thereby reducing its income by Rs. 7 lakhs. It has been rightly remarked that a disease develops very quickly but the process of its cure is very slow. In view of the vigorous agitation launched by the zamindars the Government has decided to scale down the water rates in respect of wheat and gram crops. In the year 1949 the water rates were increased by 50 per cent but now the Government has taken a decision that in respect of wheat and gram crops the water rates be reduced to the extent of one-fourth of the increased amount. I think that it is the Irrigation Department which can make our State the centre of prosperity but the pity is that the Government expenditure on this department is too heavy as a result of which the zamindars cannot derive substantial benefit from this department. Last year the cotton crops which were sown by the zamindars in '*Wad Wattar*' were completely destroyed on account of floods. Similarly wheat crops were also damaged on account of non-availability of water. But in spite of this the Government has recovered land revenue and water rates from the zamindars.

Besides this, the Government is spending $1\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees on the maintenance and repairs of canals. But the actual state of affairs is that in April last three carts fell down in the canal resulting in the death of a son of the zamindar. I would, therefore, request the Government to provide railings on the bridges over canals.

Another fact that I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that in eleven villages of my constituency, a vast area of land has become uncultivable owing to waterlogging. If that portion of the canal near which this land is situated is lined up with bricks and cement, it would not be difficult to reclaim it to increase the production of the country.

Another difficulty that the zamindars of our villages are experiencing is due to the fact that their lands are situated on the other side of the canal and there is no bridge nearby to enable them to reach their fields without unnecessary waste of time. It is for this reason that they cannot look after their work properly. Even consolidation will not prove of much avail to them unless bridges are constructed on the canal near the villages of Uggoke and Panjgrain.

Then, Sir, since the year 1938, we have been sending representations to the Government to have the outlet No. 2 of Ranota minor widened in view of the increased demand for water but no attention has been paid to our request so far. Is it too much to hope that this very reasonable demand of ours will not be ignored any longer ?

Sir, I shall resume my seat after drawing the attention of the Government to just one more matter. As a result of a number of cuts caused in the minor which flows from Dhurkot onwards to Faridkot, crops were completely damaged, we had taken care to preserve the foot-prints and the marks of the tyres of the cycle of the culprit but he has not been apprehended so far. The Government should have an enquiry made into this case.

Shri Samar Singh (Gharaunda) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, I think nobody can deny the fact that the progress of a country or a province depends upon its water and power resources. Irrigation facilities and electric energy available to the people constitute in fact the yardstick of the agricultural and industrial advancement of the country they inhabit. It is the good fortune of the Punjab that the Departments of Irrigation and Power are in the charge of the hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh who is serving the people with singular devotion, diligence and love and who sincerely desires that every inch of culturable land in this State should be in receipt of water for irrigation purposes as early as possible. He has been touring various districts during the last two or three months and hearing the complaints of the people in the presence of the officers concerned. He has also been receiving representations personally from the aggrieved persons. This has had a very salutary effect on the public. Whether it will be a temporary or a lasting effect depends upon the extent to which action is taken to redress their grievances. If all those representations continue to remain pending, the impression created on the public mind will soon be effaced.

Minister for Irrigation : Decisions were taken there and then.

Shri Samar Singh : Sir, the people of my district have asked me time and again why no action has been taken in matters about which they had complained to the hon. Minister. They propose to see him again when he visits their villages next to have their doubts removed. The fact of the matter is that if the hon. Minister succeeds in infusing the same enthusiasm, devotion and love for work in the staff of his departments with which he is imbued, the face of this State will soon after be completely transformed. It is a matter for deep regret that they lack enthusiasm and love for work. It would not be incorrect or inappropriate to say that they look upon it as '*begar*' .

Now, Sir, I may with your permission cite a concrete instance to show how the Irrigation Department is functioning. The residents of a village named Kurana were experiencing difficulty owing to the collection of rain water over a considerable area of land in their village and they applied to this Department for permission to construct a bridge at some suitable place. Since they had already collected by voluntary contributions a sum of Rs. 20 thousand for this purpose, the Department could not advance the excuse of paucity of funds. However, in spite of our best efforts, we could not obtain the permission of the Department for the construction of the bridge even after the lapse of two years, during which we continued to send petition after petition. The Department neither gave us the necessary permission nor undertook to do the work itself. When the Chief Engineer visited Karnal, he promised to look into the matter but even then the permission was not forthcoming. Ultimately, when Chaudhri Sahib visited Panipat and the people complained to him, he was kind enough to give them the necessary permission on the spot.

[Shri Samar Singh]
Sir, what I mean to say is that the Department should not at least discourage the people who are desirous of pooling their efforts and resources to construct works of public utility by inordinately delaying their permission or sanction. I do not say that the Department should not satisfy itself about the design etc., on the other hand it should itself prepare the design and give it to the people to complete the work in accordance with it. The Government should welcome the enthusiasm which is manifesting itself among the people living in the rural areas and try to canalize it into constructive channels. The Department should not unnecessarily place impediments in their way. The present state of affairs is such that if the people want to construct pathways or drains they have to run after the officials concerned for getting the demarcation expedited and waste their time unnecessarily. After all, Sir, the staff over which so much money is being spent, should also realize what they owe to the people and pay attention to their difficulties and hardships. In my opinion, this Department would be the envy of other departments, only if its staff were imbued with the same zest which is inspiring Chaudhri Sahib.

In this connection I am reminded of the case of a Gaushala whose budget was regularly prepared but all the revenue was used for constructing a beautiful bungalow for the manager and quarters for the staff. There was hardly anything left for providing food to the cows for whom the Gaushala was meant. The same is the case with the Irrigation Department. A huge sum is provided for it in the Budget but nothing is done for the benefit of the poor villagers.

At this stage Mr. Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair and Mr. Speaker occupied it.

Mr. Speaker, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the difficulties of the inhabitants of District Karnal in every session of the Legislative Assembly. As you know, Sir, the Jumna flows through this district and hundreds of villages are washed away by it on account of floods every year. This is resulting in a decrease of the area of land in this State and corresponding increase in Uttar Pradesh. If for the protection of this area complete arrangements cannot be made all at once, something should be done every year to save the land from being washed away.

Another thing which I wish to point out is that the canals, Delhi Branch, Hanta Branch, Bhiwani Branch, Bhutana Branch, etc., are causing waterlogging in District Karnal and thereby rendering the land useless. Drains will have to be constructed for removing waterlogging but if tube-wells are installed by making use of electricity from the transmission wires which are situated all along these canals we would be killing not two but three birds with one stone. In the first place water from the waterlogged area can be thrown into the canals with the help of tube-wells. This will obviate the necessity of constructing drains. Secondly, we would in this manner be able to reclaim the land and make it fit for cultivation. Thirdly, there is shortage of water for irrigation purposes in District Rohtak and it would be possible to supply water to that district from this canal.

After drawing the hon. Minister's attention to one thing more I shall resume my seat. It is said that the responsibility of the Ministry is joint. If two departments are amalgamated, one of the main difficulties of the public will be removed. I suggest to the Government that the roads on both the

sides of the canals should be metalled and these should be thrown open to general traffic. It is said that collisions will take place on these roads but I beg to submit that if one way traffic is introduced no accidents will occur and the public will have great convenience. I shall request the Ministers incharge of the Public Works Department and the Irrigation Department to confer and accomplish this task. This willl result in a network of roads being laid in the Punjab. Before resuming my seat I congratulate the hon. Minister on the work done by his department.

Shri Dev Raj Anand (Ambala Cantt) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, the demand for Irrigation has been under discussion since yesterday. In my opinion this department deserves praise for the work done by it since 1947-48 when the partition took place. Formerly our State was deficit in foodgrains. Whereas formerly only 40,000 acres of land were irrigated, now about 55,000 acres have been irrigated and brought under cultivation. This accomplishment is unique in the whole of India and the hon. Minister for Irrigation richly deserves congratulations on this account. His untiring efforts are resulting in a net work of canals being laid in the State (*Cheers*). I think that the construction of canals will give a fillip to the Grow-More-Food scheme and the farmers will become prosperous. Not only this, it will lead to general improvement in the economic condition of the State. After a few years when the Bhakra and Nangal Schemes are completed our State will be able to make rapid progress.

Then, Sir, my Friends of the Opposition criticised the Irrigation Department on the ground that there was corruption in it. I admit that there is some corruption in it but it does not exist to the extent to which it has been alleged to exist. It can be removed gradually and not all at once. Our Ministers are making whirlwind tours of the State and trying to redress the grievances of the people on the spot. A few days back I had the opportunity of going to Amritsar. There I saw the Minister holding a *darbar* where he was hearing complaints of the public. A number of peasants was also present there. The hon. Minister tried to remove all the difficulties towards which his attention was drawn by the general public or the peasants.

In this connection I want to draw the hon. Minister's attention to the difficulty which the peasants have to face in the matter of water outlets. The Superintending Engineer has the power of constructing or closing water outlets. Im my opinion it would be better if these powers are transferred to the Executive Engineers. That will result in speedy redress of the peasant's difficulties.

Then, Sir, the work that is being done on the Western Jumna Canal is of great importance. The completion of this scheme will provide a link for the major irrigation system which will come into existence on the completion of Bhakra-Nangal Project. The amount asked for under the demand for Irrigation is one of very useful items of expenditure because it is aimed at bringing about a rapid progress in the State.

There is another matter towards which I want to draw the special attention of the hon. Minister. Yesterday, when I was passing through Ambala a telegram sent by the officers working at Nangal was brought to my notice. In that telegram the traders had been informed by the officers that the latter would take delivery of the wagons of goods supplied by them if no sales-tax was charged on them. In case they insisted on charging the sales-tax the necessary material would be got from Delhi. If the officers of the Government

[Shri Dev Raj Anand]
act in this manner it is really a matter for sorrow and shame for us. Such acts have an adverse effect on trade and industry in this State. Our officers should try to encourage industry in the State and they should not import goods from other States simply to avoid payment of the sales-tax. I shall request the hon. Minister to take some immediate action in this matter. If desired, I shall send him a copy of the telegram so that he may take necessary action.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister has done well in raising the salaries of the Overseers and bringing them at par with those of the Central Government Overseers at the same time he should ask them to work honestly. He should appoint a very able and efficient engineer over them for seeing that no overseer accepts illegal gratification. This will enable the eradication of corruption before long.

Shri Ranjit Singh Captain (Hissar Sadar) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, of all the beneficient departments the Irrigation Department is the most important. After the partition, this Department has done a very great deal in setting things right in the State. This Department has two branches. One deals with the running canals and their extension etc., and the other with the Bhakra and Nangal scheme—schemes the very mention of which brought success to the Unionist Government in two or three elections. So far as the running canals are concerned, nothing substantial had to be done and I don't know as to who should be congratulated for that.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Member can congratulate himself.

Shri Ranjit Singh Captain : No, I would congratulate the hon. Chief Minister who has very successfully silenced the demand made for the last two years for effecting a reduction in the *abiana*. He has been very successful in putting off the demand of the State Congress Committee and of the people of Amritsar. The demand has been suppressed in such a manner that the people have begun to praise the Government even with the reduction of six or seven per cent. I would also congratulate Chaudhri Lehri Singh for having done things according to his resolve. When *abiana* was raised in 1949, it was declared that it would be reduced as and when funds were to come in the hands of the Government through some other source. But Chaudhri Sahib is sticking to his resolve. I thought that he had some sympathy for the *kisans*. (Interruptions.). I am also prepared to congratulate Shri Prabodh Chandra as he has been able to wangle a Parliamentary Secretaryship despite the opposition of the party. (Interruptions.)

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Shri Ranjit Singh Captain : Mr. Speaker, the question of *abiana* is a very important one. It is so very easy to say that no development is possible without taxation but only the poor *kisan* knows how hard it is for him to pay thirty or forty rupees. When the time for payment comes he runs away from home and sometimes does not make his appearance for ten days at a stretch. It is so very easy to talk of things in this House. People who are brought up and educated by the poor *kisans* with great difficulties forget their parents when they occupy the comfortable ministerial seats. Our Government is a continuous Government. With the exception of a few months of Governor's rule, there has been a Congress Government in our State ever since 1947. When the *abiana* was increased the Cabinet had promised that a reduction would be effected as soon as money would come from some other

source. Now we find that we have got a subsidy of about rupees one crore and twenty-five lakhs from the Central Government. No doubt some money has been spent on increasing the salaries of the low-paid officials, but what has happened to the remainder ? I say that it is the duty of the Punjab Government to reduce the *abiana*. The work relating to the running canals does not entitle anybody to congratulations. It may call for some condemnation but I won't do anything of the kind as I am bound by discipline.

Mr. Speaker : Your whole speech is giving a proof of your 'discipline'.

Shri Ranjit Singh Captain : Mr Speaker, I don't want to say anything more about the running canals except this that steps should be taken to reduce the *abiana* as soon as possible.

The second branch deals with Bhakra. For this we cannot be adequately grateful to the Central Government. With the completion of this scheme prosperity will come to the Punjab. (*Bell rings*). Mr. Speaker, it is a very important matter but you have been kind enough to ring the bell.

Mr. Speaker : I am safeguarding your interests as well.

Shri Ranjit Singh Captain : Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit that the loans which are being received from the Central Government should be well spent. What I wish to say is that the maximum possible results should be achieved with the minimum of expenditure. Our Engineers are famous in the whole of India and if they are allowed to do things in a proper way they would never misuse money and would only spend on things which are for the benefit of the people. But then some difficulties arise owing to some circumstances. For example the Bhakra Control Board was set up. The existence of this Board means that the Punjab, Rajisthan and Pepsu have a say in the work at Bhakra as all these three States benefit from the scheme. Shri Chandu Lal Trivedi was appointed as President of this Board in his personal capacity. Nobody can question his ability for the work but then as we see the Board has become a bottleneck.

Minister for Irrigation : That was the work of your uncle, Dr. Gopi Chand.

Shri Ranjit Singh Captain : Mr. Speaker, I will not stoop so low. Neither should others. I was submitting that the Bhakra Control Board has been a stumbling block in our way. One of the hon. Members was pleased to remark that the work could improve if the expenditure was supervised by the Ministers themselves. I do not agree with him. But then what is the good of criticising the Minister as he has no powers. Anyhow I fail to understand as to why he should be congratulated ?

Now, Sir, as the Governor has relinquished charge I suggest that the Minister for Irrigation be appointed President in his place. If Government accepts my suggestion it would go a long way to effect savings in expenditure which is to be incurred on the Travelling Allowance to be given to the President coming from outside the State.

Sardar Karnail Singh Sidhu (Dabwali) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, many an hon. Member has made observations in regard to the Irrigation Demand; some have argued in its favour while others have spoken against it. In this regard I would like to make some suggestions to the Minister concerned. Many malparactices prevail in the Canal Department and I request that the Government should take immediate steps to put a stop to them. Bhakra Main Line Operations are being carried on in my district also. *Rajbahs* flow in my district for over several miles but I am constrained to remark that no Labour Co-operative Society has been organised in my *ilaqa* and all such societies have been organised on the tails of the *Rajbahs*. When we ask the reason for this differential treatment the reply is given that the instructions are such. Once a meeting was held under the presidentship of our Chief Engineer and a decision was taken that the Labour Co-operative Societies would be organised on the west of the *pucca* road and no such society would be established on the east of this road. In this connection I would like to submit that the people in my *ilaqa* are hit very hard and, as such, these societies should be established there.

Then, Sir, the outlet of the *Rajbah* has been shifted from stone No. 13 to stone No 17. If the outlet of the *rajbah* had been the same the water level would have been higher but now it has been lowered. I would request the Government to make enquiries into this matter and the outlet of *rajbah* be brought back to stone No. 13.

Then, Sir, I have come to know that the Headquarters of the Abohar Division are being shifted from Bhatinda to Abohar. I would submit that the Government would have to incur lakhs of rupees to construct new quarters to provide accommodation to the staff. Previously also the office was stationed in Abohar but as the Pakistan border was quite near that place and the area was under the Military movement the office had to be shifted to Bhatinda. I suggest, Sir, that the office may not be shifted from that place and if at all it is to be shifted it may be shifted to Malot, which is a central place in the *ilaqa* with two mandis around. It is connected with Abohar and Dabwali by means of a *pucca* road. It is also connected with Bhatinda and Abohar by means of railway and the place itself is a railway station. Buses start from that place after every half an hour. The place is equipped with schools and hospitals. I would, therefore, request that keeping in view the convenience of the people Government should kindly accept my suggestion.

Sardar Partap Singh (Rupar) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, I would sumbit that the better the quality of work of the Irrigation Department becomes the better would be the production of foodgrains in the State. I would like to make a mention of the Rupar sub-division in this connection. Long ago a canal was excavated in my *ilaqa*, and a large tract of land was utilised for this purpose. But I am constrained to remark that no water has been supplied to our people. Similarly, much more land has been utilised for digging the Bhakra Dam canal but no scheme has been prepared to supply water to my *ilaqa*. How painful it is that so much of our land has been taken over for the canals but not a single drop of water has been supplied to us. If no *Rajbah* can be sanctioned for this purpose I would request the Government to make arrangements for the installation of tube-wells in that *ilaqa* and supply water to the people. Government should start Community Projects there. Mr. Speaker, this amounts to 'Nearer the Church farther from God'. Canals have been dug and they pass through several miles of that *ilaqa* but no water has been supplied. Sir, I am quite hopeful that the Minister for Irrigation will adopt some measures to give water to that *ilaqa*.

Maulvi Abdul Ghani Dar (Nuh) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, it will tantamount to ungratefulness on my part and injustice to the Government of India if I do not express my gratitutde for the relief given by the Government of India to our Government in order to rehabilitate our displaced people as a consequence of which our State has become not only self-supporting in the matter of foodgrains but also has been able to supply thousands of tons of corn to other States in India. Similarly, I must thank the Minister for Irrigation for the trouble he has taken along with the officers of his department for visiting the far off places of the State and removing the difficulties experienced by the uprooted people.

Sir, I have listened with rapt attention to the speech made by my Sister Doctor Parkash Kaur who has tried to admire and glorify the efforts made by our Minister for Irrigation. She has tried to prove that Chaudhri Sahib is a sympathiser of the peolple by remarking that he has given a sufficient supply of water to her *ilaqa*. Sir, in this connection I am reminded of a story. Four blind persons wanted to know what an elephatnt was like. One of them touched its eyes and the other handled its ears. The third person placed his hands on its belly and the fourth blind person came into contact with its trunk. All of them began to estimate the shape of the elephant according to their personal feeling and experience. Similarly, everybody has given his own impressions- But the state of affairs here is that—

ਅੰਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵੰਡੇ ਰਿਓੜੀਆਂ ਮੁੜ ਮੁੜ ਅਪਣਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੇ ।

अन्हां वंडे रयोड़ीयां मुड़ मुड़ आपनयां नूं दे

Sir, my district is very unfortunate. I vividly recollect the words of Sardar Bachan Singh who used to say that the British Government could be compared with a cow which grazes in India but gives milk in England. Similarly, I think that our government realizes land revenue from the people of our district and is burdening them with many taxes but in return it is depriving our district of the benefits of irrigation from the Bhakra Project on which crores of rupees are being spent.

Then, Sir, embankments have been constructed in this district with a view to checking rain water from washing away the soil but in spite of this the crops are damaged now and then. The irony of it is that the embankments that were constructed for protecting the land from the harmful effects of excessive rains are proving harmful for the crops instead of affording protection to them. Moreover, I may submit that the Irrigation Department sometime back thought of constructing a canal in our district but whereas previously rain water used to collect on land, with the digging of canal that land with land in other villages has been turned into waste land and the zamindars, instead of deriving any benefit, have actually been put to loss.

Sir, I will be very glad if the Rohtak District derives any benefit or the constituency of my Sister, Shrimati Parkash Kaur, is benefited. My hon. Friends Shri Gajraj Singh and Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht have already voiced the grievances of the people of my *ilaqa* and I would also request the hon. Minister-in-charge that he should not neglect our district because if it is neglected it would have adverse effect on the whole State.

There has been phenomenal increase in the production of cotton this year in the Fazilka Sub-division on account of the extension of irrigational facilities in this *ilaqa*. This year there has been production of 67,000 bales of

[Maulvi Abdul Ghani Dar]
cotton as compared with 13,000 bales last year. Similar is the case with paddy whose production has also increased many times, and '*abiana*' has also increased four times. I would submit that I fully agree with the views of the hon. Chief Minister that the person who gives bribe or accepts it are both guilty in the eyes of law. But at the same time I feel that due credit must be given to the officers who work hard and honestly. If injustice is done to the persons whose efforts are responsible for this phenomenal increase in production with a consequent rise in the rate of '*abiana*' I think that also would amount to corruption. The Government should not do injustice to such officers. Then, with regard to the objection that corruption is rampant in this department I am reminded of the example which Sardar Bachan Singh ex-Member of this Assembly once gave in this House. He said that there were many allegations of corruption against one Sub-Inspector. It was said about him that he was so daring that he used to accept bribe openly even from a person sitting on the tree throwing at him rupees, one by one. Similar is the state of affairs in this department where the officers stoop so low as to accept openly even a bribe of Rs. 2 from the zamindars.

Sir, in the end I would support the view of my hon. Friend Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon that the Government should fulfil its promises made to the zamindars and scale down the rates of '*abiana*' to the extent to which it has been raised. Moreover, it is my earnest desire to which I must give expression that in case the hon Minister is not able to extend the benefits of irrigation to my *ilaqa* by constructing a canal he may at least take steps to sink a large number of tube-wells in my district. My district is very backward in this respect.

Bhagat Guran Das Hans (Hoshiarpur) (*Punjabi*): Sir, through you I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Irrigation to the fact that I represent that district which was considered the garden colony of Punjab but today it would not be wrong to say that it is the most backward district in the Punjab. We feel great pride that Bhakra Dam has its origin in this district but unfortunately we will have a very scanty supply of water from it. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly extend the benefits of irrigation to this district from the canal which is being constructed at Garhshankar.

The second thing to which I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister is the serious problem of '*Chos*' i.e. hill-torrents which exist in a large number in our district. After the year 1947 this menace has been rapidly spreading with the result that large areas of land in our district have been rendered unfit for cultivation. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to take some steps to remove this menace of '*chos*' from our district and sink tube-wells in a large number.

Besides this, I would point out to the Government that the Muslim evacuee land in the submontanous area that has been allotted to the displaced persons is not being cultivated by them. We have been observing that corruption in Punjab is in full swing. True, the masses have also got a hand in encouraging this practice because there is no denying the fact that the people who want to get their work done quickly feel that they can achieve their ends just by greasing the palms of the officer concerned. But I think that both the parties i.e. one that offers as also the one who accepts the bribe are equally guilty of this social crime. Therefore, it is the bounden duty of the officers, who are the guardians of administration, to remove this evil practice. They ought to realise that now they are the servants of their own country and not of the Britishers.

Then, Sir, I wish to make a suggestion as to how corruption can be eradicated. When a corrupt officer is brought to book he should not be imprisoned for ten years or demoted to a lower rank but I think that his face should be blackened, a garland of shoes should be put around his neck and then he should be made to stand in a public square so that every one may know that he has been a traitor to his country. It is only then that he will realise his fault and express repentance. If such a punishment is awarded in a case or two nobody will dare indulge in corruption and it will thus be banished once for all.

Shrimati Shanno Devi (Amritsar City, West) (*Hindi*) *:* Mr. Speaker, since the time at my disposal is very short, with your permission, Sir, I would like to request the Minister for Irrigation to listen to my views with attention; for I am going to touch upon a very significant aspect. The discussion has been held on the demand of the Irrigation Department since yesterday. I think this department is of such an outstanding importance that it can create heaven in the State provided it functions properly . I am sure that true facts will come to his notice provided that instead of preparing plans and maps and instead of taking the criticism against his department lightly, he is earnestly determined to watch the working of a particular branch of his department for some time. Sir, it is not the quantity but the quality that triumphs always. Irrigation is a very vast department. Bhakra and Nangal projects, which are the topics of the day, have to play a vital job in the reconstruction programme of the State. The hon. Minister incharge would do well if he were to concentrate his entire attention on them for a short period and abandon his tours of the plains, which do no good to the people. I feel that there are so many other servants of the masses, too, who can conveniently dedicate themselves to delivering to them the various messages which the Minister wants to be delivered. The masses of today do not believe in seeing the maps, they do not want to be acquainted with mere schemes but they want work and work only. Therefore, in all seriousness I would like the hon. Minister to take a vow not to hold meetings or take part in the processions etc. at least for a period of six months. Let me make it clear that these are not concocted stories. As a matter of fact, the Government cannot go ahead with the execution of its plans unless the evils prevailing in the department are removed. Sir, with your permission I would like to remark that our state which once had the unique privilege of being the granary of India, has lost the entire pride of being so. Therefore if it has again to raise its prestige in the estimation of the country—let us not, for the time being, think in terms of the granary of India—at least we ought to be in such a position as to banish hunger from the country, Sir, Bhakra and Nangal are the gigantic projects upon which are focussed all our hopes. Still the people have got so many complaints against it. I have never accused any particular officer so far, nor do I intend to do so even in the future. But, Sir, the eyes watch, the ears hear and the experience reveals and I can make bold to submit that, although, I know some officers who are very honest and efficient, yet there is no denying the fact that there is no dearth of dishonest and corrupt officers, too. Therefore, with your permission, Sir, I wish to urge upon the hon. Minister to earnestly dedicate himself to the task of removing this evil rampant in the ranks of his department. The entire facts relating to this corruption will come to his knowledge even if he were to watch the work of each section and conduct investigation for a period of a month or ten days each. In this way if he were courageous enough to award the severest possible punishment even to a single officer who had not so far cared to think in terms of his own motherland and discharge his responsibilities in right manner, I am sure it would serve an eye opener for others who would be compelled to reform themselves in accordance with the spirit of the times. Mr. Speaker, since the proceedings of this

[Shrimati Shanno Devi]
august House are read in the whole country by the masses, I would like to remark once again with full sense of responsibility that no doubt all the officers do not fall in the category of the corrupt, yet we cannot afford to ignore those who are really dishonest and undesirable.

For constructing big dams and the projects of the kind of Bhakra Nangal and others, contracts are given. While talking to friends the contractors sometimes give out the truth. They admit that for getting their tenders accepted a recommendation from some big person and bribe amounting to the tune of thousands of rupees is required for the officers who are competent to decide about the tenders. In such circumstances, our State can only go ahead on the way to reconstruction provided the Minister for Irrigation takes a vow neither to act in a wrong manner at the instance of anybody nor to entrust any undesirable officer with any important work. Apart from it, I also expect of the Members of this august House to pledge themselves not to go to the hon. Ministers with any unjustified or unwarranted recommendation.

Then, Sir, I wish to say only one or two things more. I would like to tell the hon. Members of this House, the responsible heads of the Government and particularly the Ministers and the Chief Minister that prior to the partition of the country a communal question of Hindu, Sikh and Muslim used to be raised on the floor of the House . After the partition the question of Hindu and Sikh also loomed large for sometime. It is after continuous efforts that we have been in a position to avoid giving expression to communal feelings. But I am extremely pained when I hear the hon. Members emphatically saying that they have done this for the rural areas and that for the benefit of the urbanites. In this way I fear, Sir, the question of Hindus and Sikhs may not be replaced by a new problem of the rural and urban areas. Sir, my submission is that I remember so many cases, I know of so many schemes which were formulated for the urbanites but were not ever accomplished. However, leaving this thing aside I request the hon. Members of the House for God's sake to avoid talking of the rural and the urban interests and take a vow to direct their energies to such efforts as are in the interest of the State as a whole. Irrigation works in the State should be so carried out that land in the entire State irrespective of any distinctions as between urban and rural is brought under cultivation and the Punjab becomes the granary of the country.

Mr. Speaker : In other words does the hon. lady Member want the canals to run in the cities , as well ?

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Sir, you have said a very significant thing. It would be a matter of pleasure for me if such methods could be devised as would enable the canals to run near the cities for it has been observed that vast tracts of land are lying uncultivated even in many suburban areas.

With your permission, Sir, I would request any hon. colleague, the Minister for Irrigation to keep before him the opinions of the two great personalities of India even if he does not care for the opinions of others. Shri Raja ji has dubbed the P. W. D. as his enemy No. 2 and our Prime Minister Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru has called this departments a 'spoilt Child'. I, therefore, emphatically urge upon the hon. Minister to keep the opinions expressed by our two great leaders when dealing with the affairs of the departments under him.

One thing more and I resume my seat. With your permission, Sir, I would like to observe before the House that no doubt, I hail from the district of Amritsar, but at the same time I wish to make it absolutely clear that I have not risen to make any demand for that district. What I wish is to draw your attention towards the Kangra and Kulu Valley. I have been to that place twice or thrice. How I wish that this valley should be developed to such an extent as to make it a veritable paradise on earth. I would like to enquire of the hon. Minister, with your permission, Sir, whether he is not aware of the fact that the Mandi area consumes an abundant supply of electricity. But if you happen to visit Kulu you will find only the twinkle of earthen lamps. I feel that electricity should be made available to Kulu and Kangra also and the valley should be developed in other respects too. I understand that the Commissioner, Jullundur Division, had some plan in his mind to develop this backward area. I am aware that the poor residents of Kangra contributed a sum of rupees two and a half lakh in the hope that a road would be constructed in order to establish a link between Kangra and Simla. I also know that even in the absence of any aerodrome, the Commissioner flew an aeroplane to that area attracted by this land of sweet pears and other delicious fruits.

Mr. Speaker : Please wind up your speech now.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Sir, in the end I wish to submit that it is an incontrovertable fact that the people of this area came to the rescue of the Government at all hours of trouble. Such an area deserves all consideration at the hands of Government. We shall, therefore, felicitate the Minister only when he takes a vow to develop the backward and deficit areas, clear his department of all the undesirable elements.

Shri Babu Dayal (Sohna) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I have heard the speeches made by the members of the Opposition as well as by those sitting on this side of the House. It cannot be denied that the task of the Irrigation Department is very huge because in the case of failure of rains it has to meet the challenge of nature by irrigating land by means of canals and thus averting famine. For this work the department cannot be adequately thanked and praised. More than eighty per cent of the population of this State depends on agriculture and all the schemes are being formulated for their benefit. There is no doubt that with great effort this State has been converted from a deficit State to a surplus State in the matter of food. There are, however, one or two defects in the working of this department. As the time at my disposal is very short I have summed up the policy of the Government thus—

1. To put the cart before the horse.

2. Charity begins from foreign land.

3. Aim of Bhakra is lost.

4. Part is greater than the whole.

5. Master fears the servant.

6. No representation without full temptation.

First of all the policy of the Government is that of putting the cart before the horse. The Bhakra and Nangal Projects had to be taken in hand

[Shri Babu Dayal]

because all the canals constructed under the Thal and Haveli Projects were situated in areas where the majority of inhabitants were Muslims. Even those who professed to be the guardians of the interests of Hindus did not pay any attention towards this matter. You may describe it as our good fortune or misfortune but the fact remains that a large number of canals were constructed in the area now forming part of West Punjab but no attention was paid to the needs of this part of the country. After some time the late Chaudhri Chhotu Ram raised his voice against this injustice and complained that there was no canal in Gurgaon. He told his colleagues that if no canals were constructed in that district he would part company with them. This resulted in the formulation of Bhakra Dam Scheme. The speeches made by him in the Legislative Assembly as well as at Rohtak and Gurgaon should be gone through. He clearly stated that the canal to be constructed under this project would be for the benefit of districts Rohtak and Gurgaon but we notice that not a drop of water is being supplied from it to District Gurgaon. This is the case of putting the cart before the horse. A canal which was intended for Irrigating District Gurgaon is being constructed at a different place. The responsibility for all these things lies on hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh who claims to have great sympathy for District Gurgaon.

Now I wish to explain how 'charity begins from foreign land' in this case. Bikaner will get water from this canal but District Gurgaon for whom this project was intended will not get a drop of water. This is a unique case of injustice and I do not think such a thing has ever happened before. Vigilant people always derive benefits at the cost of others. How long can such injustice be tolerated ?

Then, Sir, I submit that the aim of Bhakra is lost. This project on which a sum of Rs 1,60 crores is to be spent was originally meant for the benefit of district Gurgaon where not a drop of water is going to be supplied.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member's time is up and he should resume his seat.

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I am thankful to the hon. Members for the light thrown by them on various points. As the time at my disposal is very short I shall not be able to discuss all those points but I wish to assure the hon. Members that I have noted them down and my staff and I will examine them and take necessary steps as early as possible. I beg to be excused for my inability to deal with all the points raised by hon. Members.

Mr. Speaker, it appears to have become a practice to repeat in every session that the number of Chief Engineers in the State was very large, the expenditure on the establishment was very heavy and that there were many defects in the working of the Irrigation Department. As the Bhakra Project would be completed in 1958 or 1959 I consider it necessary to place a few details before the House in order to enable the hon. Members to judge whether there is really any necessity of having four Chief Engineers or not. One of the hon. Members said that because after the partition we had a large number of engineers we decided to have four Chief Engineers so that some of them might be employed on those posts. I shall explain the whole position in order to enable the hon. Members to decide whether there is any truth in that statement.

Another complaint made by some of the hon. Members was that there was duplication in the Irrigation Department. It was said that there was no necessity of having separate officers when we had already got Revenue Collectors, Patwaris etc.,

The question of breaches and cuts was also raised. It was stated that breaches were shown as cuts and the poor peasants were unnecessarily penalised leaving them no time even for attending to their cases. It was said that the department was not only responsible for administration but had the power of imposing penalties also with the result that there was great unrest among the peasants. A great deal of criticism was offered on this account.

Some of the hon. Members have remarked in their speeches that the Government should take steps to eliminate corruption from this department. Besides this, attention of the Government has been drawn towards making, arrangement for giving adequate supply of water in the districts of Ferozepore Ambala, Gurgaon, Rohtak and Karnal. I do not like to quote facts and figures in this connection as our dispute over canal waters is going on with Pakistan. This problem is very complicated and will be decided in the near future. It is the contention of the Pakistan Government that we have ample means to irrigate our land but the real position is that there are vast tracts of land in some district where there is practically no arrangement for the supply of water. So long as water dispute between the two countries is not settled, I do not consider it proper to divulge the names of the districts where we have been able to extend irrigation facilities. I hope that the hon. Members will excuse me for not giving them the detailed information in these circumstances. I know that the Government has not taken in the past any effective measures on which it could take pride, for supplying water to the land in Gurgaon , Hoshiarpur, Kangra and Ambala districts Now the Government has-undertaken schmes of irrigation for providing water to these districts and I would also like to say something about the future programme of the Government in this connection. My hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh has remarked that petty zamindars are being put to great inconvenience on account of red-tape in the administration and this has caused feelings of frustration in their mind. He has laid stress on the point that on account of red-tapism their applications remain undisposed of for a long time. It has also been remarkeid that the irrigation facilities which are afforded to the zamindars are so negeigible that they are next to nothing . I may assure the hon. Members that every possible effort would be made by the Government to remove the difficulties of the zamindars. The hon. Members who have raised these objections will be consulted from time to time and the Government will make earnest endeavours to run the Irrigation Department on the lines suggested by them.

Sir, the first objection of the hon. Members has been that the administration of the Irrigation Department is top-heavy. It has been stated that the Government has appointed four Chief Engineers in this department. In this connection I may submit that the General Manager of Bhakra Project is Chief Engineer. He is entrusted with the duties of keeping accounts of Bhakra Project and to see that the work of this project is executed quickly and efficiently. Then there is one Chief Engineer to supervise the work of Nangal Dam and Nangal Hydel Channel. Then there is one Chief Engineer to supervise the work of excavation of Bhakra canals and the fourth Chief Engineer is to control the establishment. Now it is not the time to show plans as it used to be in the year 1948 but the schemes are now in the process of execution. The transformers have been received and the work has started in right earnest. Now it is no use quoting facts and figures and to convince

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the public by showing plans of the schemes. The total expenditure on Bhakra Project will be to the tune of Rs. 156 crores and it will be completed in the year 1958-59. The Government is spending Rs. 8 crores annually on this project. My hon. Friend Shri Jagat Ram has remarked that large sums of Government money are being wasted to benefit the contractors. I may point out to him that Bhakra Project work is not being done on contract basis but Bhakra Control Board has taken over-all charge of all technical and financial aspects relating to the construction of this project. Of the sum of 156 crores of rupees only one crore and forty lakh rupees have been spent on building the residential quarters of the officers which work was got done on contract basis and all other work is being executed through the departmental agency.Therefore, the impression of the hon. Member that the contractors are making huge profits is absolutely ill-founded. Besides, there are three Directorates, namely, Construction, Designs and Inspection. In the Construction Directorate there are 183 engineers. Of them 66 are American Engineers and 117 Assistant Engineers. Then, you can easily imagine that there is a large number of Overseers working under them. I need not go into this detail. The work of designs is very important and we have recruited 85 specialists for this work out of whom 13 specialists are Americans. There is big volume of work in this Directorate and large staff has been engaged for this purpose.

We have taken care to see that a proper check is exercised over the work that is being done on the Bhakra Project. Inspection staff is completely separate and distinct from the construction staff. Its function is to report, after an examination of the design, the material used and the work executed, whether every job is being completed properly. Work on the Bhakra Dam is being done day and night, in three shifts and it is for this reason that services of a very large number of officers are required to exercise control and supervision over it. Just imagine, Sir, the number of labourers engaged in work there is 53 thousand. We are dependent on foreign countries for the supply of the necessary machinery and to some extent on the Directorate of Disposals. Then, Sir, the fact that a sum of Rs. 156 crores is to be spent should also not be lost sight of. In view of these facts, I think it is not proper on the part of the hon. Members to criticize the Government for employing unnecessary staff. My submission to them is: "You are our masters; you are the makers of this Government. You have a right to seek any information that you may like to either from me or from the office of my department. I wanted to invite you to visit the site of the Dam. I am consulting the Finance Secretary about the question of the finance. We shall definitely take you to the site and then you will be able to see everything for yourselves. This is your own country; these Projects are being executed for your benefit. Why do you mislead the public by raising false cries of corruption and misappropriation and graft?" Sir, you will be glad to know that though according to the estimate of the Bhakra Control Board, expenditure on staff might have been 11 per cent, actually we are spending no more than 6.2 per cent on the establishment. (*Cheers*) Now, I may hope that the hon. Members while indulging in criticism will in future keep all these facts in view and before making any allegation come to me or the Leader of the House.

Now, Sir, may I tell the House the amount of work that has so far been done so that the hon. Members may realize that all this staff is not sitting idle. The work of the construction of the railway track to connect Bhakra by rail has been completed. This necessitated the construction of quite a number of bridges. Then, there was the work of construction of tunnels to divert the course of the river—a work of gigantic and stupendous nature—which is nearing completion. I feel happy to be able to inform the House

that these tunnels the like of which has never been attempted in any part of the world in the past will be completed by June or July and the course of the river will be diverted and the construction of the Dam on the actual site will be taken in hand soon after the rainy season is over. (*Cheers*). At that time 'pandals' will be erected and the hon. Members will be invited and taken round. Then, I hope, they will be satisfied, and admit the fact that such huge tunnels have not so far been constructed either in America or in Russia. This stupendous work is being executed by our engineers in collaboration with foreign specialists and it will cost the State Exchequer a sum of Rs. four crores. The hon. Members will not stint in praising us when they shall see the completed tunnels. They would then express their appreciation of the manner in which such a difficult work had been accomplished. Even now when any hon. Members visit the site and have a look at the work that has been done, they are simply amazed but the strangest thing is that when they come to the House they start indulging in the same old type of criticism.My submission to them is : take pity on these engineers; they two are after all your fellow citizens. They are also concerned as much as you are about the well being of the poor people of this country.

Some hon. Members have made several allegations about the prevalence of corruption in the Irrigation Department. Whatever they have said will definitely appear in the newspapers, let them rest assured. After all, the offices of the newspapers cannot refer all these allegations to a Commission for scrutiny before publishing them. It is but natural for them to get the impression that there is something wrong with the State of Denmark. In this connection, Sir, I have to give an important information to the House. It is this. Our Government and the Bhakra Control Board have decided to order a batching and mixing plant which will mix requsite quantity of cement, concrete, sand etc., and automatically keep a correct record of the quantities used. It will not be possible for any one to tamper with this record. Cement will be brought in sealed wagon which will open in front of that plant and the cement will be deposited therein. The machine will itself keep a record of its consumption which nobody will be in a position to alter. So, in this way before the commencement of the next session we hope to be able to convince the hon. Members that a fool-proof system has been devised to eliminate the leakage of cement and other material. I have also invited the anti-corruption Committee to pay a visit to the site and see the new arrangements that have been made in this connection. They have themselves told me that there is now no complaint about the filching of cement. The Police is also posted at the site. The Inspection staff has also been engaged to see that the material is put to a proper use. It is their duty to inspect everything and detect irregularities. All these precautions have been taken to uproot corruption.

Let my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sri Chand not mind it but it is a fact that his information about the swallowing of fifty five lakhs of rupees worth of a certain metallic material is absolutely incorrect. All the money that has so far been spent on it is of the order of Rs. 1,40,138-4-0. Sir, is it proper for a responsible person, an hon. Member of this House, to make an allegation about a matter intimately connected with the fortunes of the people of this State on the basis of incorrect and unverified information ? I may remind him that a number of officers have been arrested on charges of stealing the cement and every possible precaution is being adopted against this kind of corruption.

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Now, Sir, I may inform the House that the second Cheif Engineer is incharge of the Nangal Hydel Channel, a canal which when completed will have no parallel in the whole world. This canal will reach Rupar after crossing hundreds of chos, nullahas and rivlets. This work will be completed in 1956 at a cost of Rs. 20 crores.

Then, Sir, I wish to inform the hon. Members that over a stretch of forty miles between Rupar and Nangal, thirty four grand bridges have got to be constructed each of which will cost about fifty or sixty thousand rupees. In addition to these a number of cross drainage works and syphons have to be built. That is not all. In the forty miles tract referred to by me a huge canal is under construction. If the hon. Members pay a visit to that place they will be able to realise how huge this work is. This canal would be seventy-two feet wide and its depth would vary from 20.5 feet onwards. In order to level a four miles long tract of this canal earth had to be filled to a depth of eighty feet. The water in this canal would flow with such a high velocity that not to speak of a man stepping into it, even an elephant would be swept away if he entered it (*Laughter*). I mean to say that this task is so gigantic and difficult that it is necessary to have a separate Chief Engineer for it. The duties of this Chief Engineer do not end there. We have two huge power houses for generating electricity which removes darkness and makes beautiful forms visible (*Laughter*) . I mean to say that the generation of electricity is a very important work and it cannot be entrusted to a officer of lower rank. I was submitting that these two power houses are very huge and steel has been used in their foundations. These have cost the Government a huge sum. The water falls from a height of eighty or ninety feet and electricity is generated from it. In this connection I am reminded that Emperor Shahjehan got a canal built which flowed through the Red Fort and on seeing that he remarked that that place had been converted into heaven. When the canal that we are constructing is completed the whole of Punjab will become heaven and the people will forget Shahjehan's heaven (*Cheers*).

I was speaking about the power houses. Both the power houses are very huge and the Americans and other foreigners who have visited these have praised the work done by our Chief Engineer and other engineers. My Friends of the Opposition, however, severely criticise this department and without any regard for the immensity of the work, they demand that the number of Chief Engineers should be reduced. Do they mean to suggest that the task of the execution of Bhakra and Nangal Projects on which we are spending crores of rupees should be entrusted to a patwari instead of its being done by a Chief Engineer ? (*Cheers* and *Laughter*).

In this connection, I want to inform the hon. Members that for their sake I am getting a film prepared which will be shown to them before the October session of the Legislative Assmbly. From that they will be able to know the work that is being done on the huge Bhakra and Nangal Projects. A pamphlet on this subject has already been sent to the hon. Members.

Then, Sir, not less than forty crores of rupees are going to be spent on the network of canals which is being laid. There is another project on which a sum of 14.5 crores is going to be spent. I am referring to the Harike Project which is under the charge of the same Chief Engineer. I do not want to go into the details of this project but we have fixed a day on which it will be made known to the people. Formerly we did not make this scheme public. The Harike Project is a very essential irrigation scheme. The river has been diverted and a road has been constructed on the place where it formerly flowed. Those who see this work say that no human being could do it and it must have been done by gods. (*Laughter*). I want to add that the lining of the Harike Project canals will be of a very high standard.

In addition to the amount spent on the Hydel Channel we have set up a Government Workshop at Amritsar at a cost of three and a half crores of rupees. Goods worth fifty or sixty lakhs of rupees are manufactured there every year and these are used in the construction of works at Bhakra and Nangal. About five hundred tons of steel is manufactured there. A proper account has to be maintained not only of the goods manufactured there but also of the wages, etc., of about one thousand skilled labourers engaged there. All this work is being done by the same Chief Engineer whose post my friends want to be retrenched.

His duties do not end there.We have got a research institute at Amritsar a branch of which is located at Malikpur in District Ferozepur. Soil tests of the lands at Bhakra and Nangal are held at this institute. Many kinds of tests and researches are done at that institute so that the material used in the construction of works at Bhakra and Nangal may be such that the dam may be very strong. This is a very important work. The hon. Members can now well imagine the heavy responsibilities of the Chief Engineer. He is in-charge of the Nangal Project, Harike Project, Government Workshop, Amritsar, Research Institute, Amritsar and the running canals in District Ferozepore. When he is discharging such onerous responsibilities with great efficiency, it does not lie in the mouth of my hon. Friends of the Opposition to say that the Government does not know how to run administration. I have explained the whole position but if they are still of that view then I can't help it.

Moreover, the Bhakra canals are going to irrigate Pepsu territory also and as already submittted by me their construction in that area is going to cost about forty crores of rupees. The establishment engaged in connection with the construction of Bhakra Dam costs 11 per cent while that working at Bhakra Canals costs 8 per cent of the whole expenditure. This includes the expenditure on five Superintending Engineers twenty Executive Engineers and 89 S. D. Os. These figures will enable the hon. Members to form an idea a bout the hugeness of this work.

Mr. Speaker, I have forgotten to mention one thing in this connection. The length of the main canals is 562 miles out of which 287 miles long portion is to be pucca lined. So far as the distributaries of these canals are concerned, their total length will be 2,100 miles. Let us also have some idea about the number of bridges which will be constructed over these. About 285 bridges will be constructed over the main canals and about 800 over the distributaries. These include the railway bridges also. The hugeness of this work does not end there. 1,27,500 labourers are working on these projects. Bhakra Project is expected to be completed by 1956. As stated by the Governor, if there is no shortage of cement supplies, we hope to finish this work according to the schedule. Our Chief Engineer is also trying to complete this work before the scheduled time (*Cheers*). I hope that all the hon. Members will agree with me that this Chief Engineer is essential for such a huge task.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that before the partition there used to be three Chief Engineers but now their number has been increased to four. I would like to inform the hon. Members that in the United Punjab the Chief Engineer Establishment had to supervise an establishment of 373 persons, here the establishment has shot up to 497.

Besides this other work has enormously increased though I would not like to go into details. At so many places tube-wells are being bored in large numbers. We wish that somehow water-supply should be arranged for the

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backward areas of Gurgaon and Kangra where there is great scarcity of water. The Department has to exert a good deal for these things and I would request the hon. Members that they should be good enough to give us all possible help. No useful purpose would be served by unnecessary criticism. The Chief Engineer Establishment has to attend to the work of minor irrigation as well. The provision for this work is in the neighbourhood of rupees 7.5 crores. 256 tube-wells are to be set up in Jagadhri and 355 tube-wells are to be bored for T. C. A. I have no mind to give details of these tube-wells but would only say that there is lot of work to do and the co-operation of all M.L.A.s is badly needed. If the hon. Members give us their wholehearted support we will be able to do very useful work for the general public.

Mr. Speaker, it has been remarked that there is duplication of work and that the patwaris and the zilladars desire to be taken over by the Revenue Department. So many other things have been also said in this connection. As a matter of fact some people have begun to have an impression that a little of propaganda and threats of strikes do the trick. I have received a memorandum and I think that it must have been received by the M. L. A.s also. Some hon. Members also have been pleased to say that the patwaris, etc., should be placed under the control of the Deputy Commissioner. Perhaps the impression is that these officers and officials have not much to do. So far as I know the zilladars and the patwaris keep an account of the water used for irrigation. The S. D.O. has to inquire every month whether water has been properly distributed or not and whether it reached the tail. The S. D. O. has to submit the necessary returns. I can assure the House that the patwaris do not sit idle. They have to look to the canal work and they cannot be sent away to any other department. Such an experiment can never succeed. I can prove by facts and figures that it is not advisable to place the patwaris and the zilladars under the Deputy Commissioners. I may plainly say that they will be kept in the Irrigation Department and no heed will be paid to this agitation. So far as the question of increasing their salaries is concerned, that is a different matter. The Government can certainly look into it and see what can be done.

As for corruption, nobody can say that this department is completely free from it. But then it is also not reasonable to say that it is highly corrupt. At any rate I am of the opinion that the Engineers of the Punjab are honest and intelligent. They are gods. They should be worshipped. It is the duty of the gods to provide food to the humanity and the Engineers help us in growing more food. This is why they are gods. Their intelligence is admired not only by me but even by the people of other countries. The foreign visitors have remarked that they are the most efficient engineers in the world. The hon. Members can just think of the conditions in Pakistan. There, people are not getting two square meals a day and request is made for wheat to Shri Kidwai and Nehru on telephone. It is these Engineers who have enabled us to give wheat to others . (*Cheers*).

So far as corruption is concerned, I would invite the hon. Members to provide us with fool-proof instances. With the exception of Shri Gopi-Chand M. L. A., no hon. Member has come forth with a definite instance. Nobody has afforded us a chance to apprehend a culprit. We earnestly desire to remove corruption from the State but then that can only be done if the hon. Members give us their whole-hearted co-operation. Who could do better C. I. D. work than the hon. Members ? I would request them that they should help us in making schemes for the removal of

corruption. When I became a minister in the United Punjab in 1946, I had consultations with Governor Jenkins in connection with removal of corruption from this Department. But that ministry was not to last long. Now after the partition we are trying to do the work through Labour Co-operative Societies and we hope that we shall be able to reduce corruption to some extent. We have decided to give earthwork to these societies so that the contractors are not able to offer bribes to the officers. We try to give work to these societies even if their tenders are sometimes not acceptable. The Government is at times prepared to give them sixteen rupees instead of fifteen rupees because the Government feels that by giving work to the Labour Co-operative Societies corruption can be reduced to some extent.

Then, Sir, the members of the Labour Co-operative Societies work very hard from early morning till late in the evening. I myself am convening various meetings in this connection and, similarly, the Minister for Finance is making all-out efforts to make the scheme a success. At one place we have to look after the Irrigation minors while at the other place we have to supervise the work of drainage scheme. What I mean to submit is that the work is so irksome that we do not get even a minute's rest. These Labour Co-operative Societies are very beneficial for the masses and if the contract system is abolished there would remain no scope of corruption for the officers.

Next, Sir, the Government has set up the anti-Corruption Committee so that any aggrieved person who lodges a complaint with the Committee may get his grievances redressed. Now we have connected that Committee with the Bhakra and Nangal Dam Schemes and the members have been instructed to produce concrete proofs against the corrupt officers to enable us effectively to deal with the complaints of the public. I would like to assure the House that no corrupt officer would be able to escape from these ostracizing operations. If any person has got a house built or has deposited any money in the name of any relation, enquiries would be made as to wherefrom the money had flown to him. My sister has suggested to check the accounts of the Government servants. I would state for her information that the Government would go even to the length of finding out as to what a Government servant eats, what he wears and what type of building he lives in. Detailed enquiries would be made about every Government servant, and very severe and deterrent actions would be taken against corrupt persons.

Sir, now I come to the red-tapism prevalent in Government offices. In this connection I would like to state for the information of the hon. Members that we are going to fix certain limits of time for certain works. The time limit would depend on the nature of the work. These forms would be published in Hindi and Punjabi and distributed to people through the Publicity Department. When a person would submit any application he would be given a receipt and the next date of his again coming to the office by the department. Thus we are soon going to do away with the evil of red-tapism.

Mr. Speaker, I have a great regard for Sardar Gurdial Singh as he is a friend of mine. Although I do not want to give any cause of annoyance to him yet on account of his being celibate sometimes he gets cross with me. He has stated that some alterations are being made on the Upper Bari Doab canal under my orders and that some cases of favouritism have come to his notice. I have got a copy of the report in the matter with me and I want

[Minister for Irrigation]
to circulate it in the House. In this connection I would like to submit that when for the first time I went to Amritsar one poor kisan made a complaint to me that he was not being given his due share of water because the moga belonged to the Deputy Speaker.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : No moga belongs to me. It is a mis-statement of facts and I challenge it.

Minister for Irrigation: The moga did not belong to you. On the other hand it belonged to the Irrigation Department. Then, Sir, I did not care for the friendship of Sardar Sahib and got the moga stopped. I would like to again assure Sardar Sahib that if he has got any complaint and if he can produce a concrete proof against a corrupt officer I would take a very severe action against him. I have no concern whether a certain person is an M. L. A. or a Minister. If any mistake committed by me or my Chief Engineer comes to light we would admit it, would apologise through the Press and get it immediately rectified. Besides, we would remain very careful in the future.

Mr. Speaker, one of the hon. Members has stated that the Canal Department is the Department of sons-in-law. In this connection I would like to submit that two sons-in-law of two officers are working in this department. But no interference has ever been made by the officers in their work. I think the hon. Members should have no objection if any officer selects an honest and conscientious worker as his son-in-law, and specially when the man might have been working since many years and the marriage might have taken place long after.

Now I will say something about Kangra, Hoshiarpur and Ambala Districts. So far as Kangra District is concerned, I would submit that I had requested the M. L. A.s of this district to give me their suggestions for the development of this district. We held deliberations for two days in this House. It is the policy of the Government to give all possible assistance to the backward districts. On hearing their suggestions I consulted the Chief Engineer in order to give practical shape to their suggestions.

The House will be pleased to know that our Government spent Rs. 6,73,000 on the repairs of 29 kuhls last year in Kangra District. These kuhls provide water to 44,000 acres of land. Now we have taken the work of Sudhar kuhl in hand which will involve an expenditure of Rs. 12,50,000. The work is in progress and this kuhl will irrigate 60,CC0 acres of land. Then, Sir, I may submit that on the suggestion made by Bakhshi Partap Singh the Government has taken a decision to remodel the Lower Baijnath Kuhl this year which would irrigate 4,37,000 acres of land. We have also decided and issued instructions to the Irrigation Department that in case of minor irrigation projects in the plains it should take steps for the execution of such schemes after holding consultations with the Deputy Commissioner and M. L. A.s of the district. In this way minor projects of irrigation will be executed every year. Of course, the Government will realize betterment charges from the zamindars who derive benefits of irrigation from such projects. The Government will also recover betterment charges for the supply of water from Sudhar kuhl at the rates which are considered reasonable in the opinion of the hon. Finance Minister or if need be the rates may be got approved by the Government of India. The Deputy Commissioner of the district will be consulted if

any irrigation scheme is to be launched in the district. Moreover, I have decided after consulting the hon. Chief Minister that we should entrust the work of supervision of these kuhls to the panchayats and place at their disposal a sum of rupees two or three lakhs for this purpose. We have full sympathy with the people of this ilaqa. Keeping in view the urgency of this problem we have entrusted the work of supervision of these kuhls to the panchayats and the maintenance work will be done by the Government.

So far as the installation of tube-wells is concerned, we will first of all sink tube-wells in Kangra, Hoshiarpur and Ambala Districts. In this connection we will consult all the members of the House because the Government have to pursue a uniform policy in respect of all districts and by mutual consultations we will be able to chalk out ways and means for the ordered development of the State. We will also have to examine the question of levying betterment charges in each district.

The hon. Members have already explained at great length the difficulties of Hoshiarpur District. I think that this District has to face three kinds of problems. First is the evil of 'chos'. In this connection I may submit that a provision of Rs. 1,11,000 by way of supplementary grant was made in the Budget this year to canalize and train four chos and it will require about 70 lakh rupees to take effective measures to remove this menace totally from this district. Sir, after the year 1914 these 'chos' have caused so much havoc that they have rendered large areas of land unfit for cultivation. I may make it clear that the Government will recover betterment charges from those zamindars whose lands have been protected from being washed away from these 'chos'. It will take some time to eradicate this evil but the Government is anxious to take early steps to remove this menace. I hope that when we meet next year the hon. Members of this district will greet us with smiling faces.

The second point to which the attention of the Government has been drawn is that the Bhakra Canals while taking its origin in Hoshiarpur District will irrigate lands in Bikaner State but not supply water to the thirsty land of this district. In this connection I may submit that the Government has taken a decision to irrigate land in Nangal area by means of lift irrigation. I may assure my hon. Friend Gyani Rajinder Singh that in his ilaqa where flow irrigation is not possible water would be supplied by lift irrigation. In the area where here is no obstruction to the smooth flow of water, irrigation will be done by means of a canal coming from Rupar. I may assure my hon. Friend that the Government will do its best to provide irrigational facilities to his ilaqa by all possible means.

Moreover, we are trying to get tube-wells equipment from the Government of India and I met Mr. Kidwai also in this connection. I hope that we will be able to get equipment for 200 or 250 tube-wells from the Government of India. We will thus be able to instal tube-wells in that district and render service to that district where highly educated persons and politicians live. In the year 1949, 5222 acres of land was irrigated by Shahnahar and this time it has irrigated 7,000 acres of land and now steps have been taken that Shahnahar would in future provide irrigation to 8,768 acres of land. In this way we have been able to provide extensive irrigation facilities through this canal.

It is argued that a very small sum of money will be required to finance the construction of Ray Head. But it is estimated to cost a sum of Rupees one crore and some lakhs to install a Head over the Shahnahar. In this connection I would like to state that the entire survey work has been completed,

[Minister for Irrigation]

The sanction of the Government of India has also been obtained. But the main hurdle in its execution is the water dispute that has been going on with Pakistan. As soon as that dispute is settled, the scheme will be put into operation. With the completion of the Ray Head an area of about 27,37,000 acres will be irrigated. I, therefore, assure you, Sir, that we feel particularly concerned with this Shahnahar. We are putting in our best possible endeavours to develop it still further.

I have not yet taken some very significant decisions so far as the area of Ambala District is concerned; but I am not reluctant to tell you the steps I have taken with regard to the Gurgaon District. I twice went on a tour of that district but I am constrained to remark that neither Maulvi Sahib nor my hon. Friend Rao Gajraj Singh cared to see me. But despite their failure to do so, I have had consultations with the Deputy Commissioner, the Members of Parliament and the District Board. They placed all their difficulties and handicaps before me. We had frank discussions, framed plans and arrived at certain decisions. As far the demand of allocating more tube-wells to the district, I have told them that the Government has already installed tube-wells at Rewari. Besides I assure them of more tube-wells provided they could be conveniently managed. During the year 1949 I myself did not feel justified in not supplying water for Irrigational purposes to this place when only at a distance of fifteen miles at Delhi the people get water for luxuries like showers and planting of flowers in the gardens. Sir, I am not making this observation in my capacity as a Minister of the Punjab only but also as an ordinary citizen of the land. These are the inert feelings of my heart. In order to remove such difficulties and also with a view to developing this district we have installed tube-wells there and we contemplate offering more help after this Dam is completed.

With regard to the different suggestions that have been made by my various hon. Friends to the Government, I wish that they should allow us some time so that the surveys of those schemes are carried out and the schemes consequently put into execution. Apart from this, I would like to assure my hon. Friend Rao Gajraj Singh that I would not hesitate in taking stern action against the S.D.O. if he files a complaint. I would rather be prepared to dismiss him if the allegation made against him is established. We would not stand to gain anything by injuring his feelings and sentiments. After all, he is our master as well as a colleague. We shall try our level best to accomodate all his suggestions and recommendations. I am asking all my S. D. Os. to move with the times and conduct themselves accordingly. With these words Sir I resume my seat.

DEMAND No. 7

IRRIGATION (WORKS)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 47,80,300 on account of 18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues excluding Establishment Charges be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 47,80,300 on account of 18 other Revenue expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues excluding Establishment Charges be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 47,80,300 on account of 18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues excluding Establishment Charges be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. one lakh.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 101.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,38,05,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Irrigation (Working Expenses).

The motion was carried.

DEMAND No. 8

CHARGES ON IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 10 lakhs.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1

The motion was lost

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,50,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of charges on Irrigation Establishment.

The motion was carried.

DEMAND No. 9

IRRIGATION (CAPITAL)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

r. Speaker : Question is—

ľhat the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1.

The motion was by leave withdrawn

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 4,22,26,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Irrigation (Capital).

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. *on Wednesday the,* 18*th March,* 1953

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

18th March, 1953.

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 18th March, 1953.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p. m., of the clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

LEVY OF PUNITIVE TAX IN ROHTAK DISTRICT

*1409. **Shri Sri Chand** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) (i) the total amount of punitive tax levied on the inhabitants of Rohtak District during the years from 1950 to 1952 ;

(ii) the names of the villages in the said district which have been declared to be disturbed areas under the Police Act ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Punitive Tax in the Rohtak District is to be realised from the Jats alone and from no other community ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that in Village Pahrawar, Police Station Rohtak Sadar, there is only one Jat family and the total amount of Punitive Tax amounting to about Rs 8,000 levied on that village shall be borne by the head of that family ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) (i) Rs. 2,84,965-4-0,

(ii) A list of such villages is attached herewith.

(b) it is not a fact that all the punitive police tax in the Rohtak District is to be realized from the Jats alone. This tax on account of Additional Police post located in 62 villages in this district for the period from 16th September, 1952 to 15th March, 1953 only, will, however, be realized from this community alone. The reason for this is that this post has been located for the aforesaid period on account of the disturbed conditions of these villages and the conduct of the Jats alone.

(c) it is a fact that in village Pehrawar, there is one Jat family and the rest are Brahmins. A sum of Rs. 992 levied on account of punitive police tax for the period from 16th September, 1951 to 15th September, 1952 will be borne by all the inhabitants of this village and a sum of Rs. 268 (not Rs 8,000) for the period from 16th September, 1952 to 15th March, 1953 by the Jats alone. The reason for realising this tax for the latter period from the Jats alone has already been given in reply to part (b) of the question.

[Chief Minister]

Names of the villages declared disturbed under the Police Act as required in (a) (ii) above

1. Mandothi.
2. Jakhoda.
3. Kesar.
4. Dhanana.
5. Mundlana.
6. Kalana.
7. Jawana.
8. Barana.
9. Dhorana.
10. Khanpur Kalan
11. Inayat.
12. Gamri.
13. Kasandi.
14. Kasanada.
15. Assaudha.
16. Ladraon.
17. Kharkhoda.
18. Rohna.
19. Sunari Kalan.
20. Dhamar.
21. Bahu Akbar Pur.
22. Tatoli.
23. Jindrain.
24. Karontha.
25. Khadwali.
26. Makrauli Khurd.
27. Sanghi.
28. Pehrawar.
29. Jassia.
30. Kaloi.
31. Dobh.
32. Chamarian.
33. Makrauli Kalan.
34. Bohar.
35. Bhalout.
36. Baliana.
37. Keharawar.
38. Dataur.
39. Kahnaur.
40. Kalanga.
41. Sudana.
42. Lakhan Majra.
43. Nadana.
44. Kharak Jatan.
45. Farmana.
46. Gehrawar.
47. Nandal.
48. Balmaba.
49. Garauthi.
50. Chiri.
51. Indargarh.
52. Jasrana.
53. Jauali
54. Katwal.
55. Ahmedpur.
56. Barrota.
57. Bhainswal Kalan.
58. Bidhal.
59. Kheri Dhamkan.
60. Garhwal.
61. Bali Brahminan.
62. Gilaur Kalan.
63. Chhachhrana.
64. Ahulana.
65. Chhappra.
66. Thaska.

67. Baroda.
68. Jagsi.
69. Rukhi.
70. Gangana.
71. Kanwli.
72. Kami.
73. Bohla.
74. Nana Titarpur.
75. Pollad.
76. Pinana.
77. Jharoti.
78. Jharot.
79. Bhatgaon.
80. Guna.

TOUR BY MINISTERS

*1410. **Shri Sri Chand** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) the number of days on which each of the Ministers was on tour during the period of interval of the present Session of the Assembly i.e., from 28th October, 1952 to 19th November, 1952 ;

(ii) the distance in miles travelled by each Minister during the period mentioned in part (a) (i) above ;

(iii) the cost of petrol and other expenses of the car of each Minister during the above-mentioned period ;

(iv) the Travelling Allowance drawn by each Minister ;

(v) the Travelling Allowance drawn by the staff accompanying each of the Ministers ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : A statement embodying the requisite information is given below—

Minister	Number of days on which each Minister was on tour during the period 28.10.52 to 19.11.52.	Distance in miles travelled by each Minister	Cost of petrol etc. of the car allotted to eah Minister	Amount of T. A. drawn by each Minister	Amount of T.A. drawn by the staff accompanying the Minister
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
		Miles	Rs A. P.	Rs A. P.	Rs A. P.
Chief Minister	9 days	802	301 3 3	135 0 0	196 11 0
Development Minister	19 „	2,694	516 15 3	225 0 0	588 8 0
Irrigation and Power Minister	8 „	910	368 13 0	120 0 0	363 12 0
Local Government Minister	15 „	1,723	571 1 6	225 0 0	380 4 0
Education Minister	12 „	1,487	352 9 0	180 0 0	326 9 0
Labour Minister ..	8 „	2,669	393 12 3	120 0 0	565 14 0
Public Works Minister	16 „	1,530	439 13 3	225 0 0	595 14 0
Finance Minister	7 „	785	131 6 6	112 8 0	158 12 0
	Total ..	12,600	3,075 10 0	1,342 8 0	3,176 4 0

OFFICE HOURS IN SIMLA

*1438. **Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the working hours of all Punjab Government offices stationed at Simla have been reduced from 15th November, 1952 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the reduction mentioned in part (a) above has not been applied to the Punjab Government Press Industrial Employees ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) yes, but up to the 15th March 1953 ;

(b) Yes. The reason is that the Punjab Government Press is a registered factory governed by the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948. The working hours of its employees are governed by section 54 of that Act read with section 51. These employees are also entitled to overtime benefits under the Factories Act.

ARREST OF SHRI D. D. SINGH

*1448. **Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that Shri D. D. Singh, General Secretary, Nangal-Bhakra Mazdoor Union was arrested on the 18th November, 1952, by the Hoshiarpur Police.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Yes, he was arrested on 9th November 1952, in case F. I. R. No. 99, dated 15th August, 1952, under section 379 I.P.C., P. S. Anandpur Sahib and was discharged on 28th November, 1952. This case was registered in connection with the theft of a cycle of one Lachman Singh, Tailor, Nangal Township. Later, on information received there was reasonable suspicion that Shri D. D. Singh was or had been in possession of the stolen cycle. This led to his arrest.

REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS OF CRIMINAL TRIBES AS BAD CHARACTERS IN THE STATE

*1464. **Shri Rala Ram** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state —

(a) the total number of members of the erstwhile criminal tribes who have been registered as confirmed bad characters since the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act in the State together with the reasons therefor;

(b) whether any complaints of highhandedness and arbitrary registration of bad characters have been received by the Government ; if so, their number together with the action, if any, taken by the Government thereon ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) About 50. They came within the purview of section 2(3) of the Habitual Offenders Act, 1952.

(b) Yes only one. Even that on careful inquiry was found to be baseless.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS IN THE STATE

*1465. **Shri Rala Ram** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of reformatory schools in the State at present for (i) Juvenile offenders and (ii) the children of erstwhile criminal tribes ;

(b) whether there exists any expert and specialist Inspectorial Staff for these schools ;

(c) whether Government watches the careers of those who are discharged from such schools ; if so, with what results ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:

(a) (i) One.

(ii) None.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. In the year 1950-51 the percentage of good conduct amongst those who were discharged was 90, which is very encouraging.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS RUN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE

*1487. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of public libraries and reading rooms in the State run by various departments of the Government together with the amount spent department-wise by the Government on them ;

(b) whether the Government has considered the feasibility by bringing the Libraries referred to in part (a) above under the unified control ; if so, with what results ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a)

Name of the office or Department	No. of public Libraries	No. of reading rooms	Amount spent Department-wise by the Government.
			Rs A. P.
Director of Panchayats, Punjab ..	915	Nil	45,000 0 0
Director Public Relations, Punjab ..	Nil	145 (subsidised by the Government)	20,755 10 0
Commissioner, Ambala Division ..	Nil	Nil	..
Commisioner, Jullundur Division ..	Nil	Nil	..

[Chief Minister]

(b) The Punjab Government have set up the Central Library Committee and the District Library Committees in each district of the State to bring the libraries under one unified control.

The Central Library Committee carefully considered the question of co-ordination and consolidation of rural and urban libraries in the State. It was decided that the libraries should essentially be a Panchayats institution in these areas and in some of villages where the libraries had been started by the District Boards, the responsibility for running the libraries would be that of the District Boards and the Panchayat should not open new libraries in those villages. If possible, they should contribute something to the maintenance of the District Board Libraries. In villages in which there are no Panchayats, the Young Farmer Clubs have been permitted to run their libraries while in other villages in which the Panchayats and Young Farmer's Clubs were functioning side by side, the Panchayats should take over the libraries of the Young Farmer's Club.

POLICE OFFICIALS IN THE STATE

***1490. Shri Teg Ram :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the total number of Constables, Head Constables, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police at present in the State together with their monthly emoluments and grade of Pay ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : A statement is given below—

	Permanent	Temporary	Total
Sub-Inspectors ..	683	57	740
Assistant Sub-Inspectors ..	700	212	912
Head Constables ..	2,191	290	2,481
Foot Constables ..	15,661	1,163	16,829

GRADES OF PAY

Sub-Inspector (Selection Grade)	1st Selection Grade ..	Rs 210 per mensem
	2nd Selection Grade	Rs 200 per mensem
	3rd Selection Grade ..	Rs 190 per mensem
	4th Selection Grade ..	Rs 180 per mensem
(Time-scale)	..	Rs 120—5—160/5—180
Assistant Sub-Inspector	..	Rs 80—2—90/2—100
Head Constable	..	Rs 55—3—85
Foot Constable (S. G.)	..	Rs 40—1—50
Foot Constable (T.S.)	..	Rs 33—1—36 $\frac{4}{7}$—40 $\frac{5}{7}$—45

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

Pay up to Rs 50 per mensem .. Rs 30 per mensem

Pay exceeding		Rs 50 but not exceeding			Rs 150 per mensem..		Rs 40 per mensem		
"	"	Rs 150	"	"	Rs 200	"	Rs 45	"	"
"	"	Rs 200	"	"	Rs 250	"	Rs 50	"	"
"	"	Rs 250	"	"	Rs 300	"	Rs 60	"	"

TEMPORARY ALLOWANCE

Sub-Inspector .. Rs 10 per mensem

COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE

	S.-I.	A.S.-I.	H.C.	F.C.	
Simla ..	1	28	14	11	Per mensem
Dharamsala ..	15	8	7	3	"
Dalhousie (Gurdaspur) ..	25	12	8	5	"
Amritsar (Headquarters) ..	..	..	5	5	"

The Police staff posted in Kulu Sub-Division is also entitled to compensatory allowance at 20 per cent of the pay, subject to a maximum of Rs 50 per mensem and a minimum of Rs 10 per mensem.

LEVY OF PUNITIVE TAX IN ROHTAK DISTRICT

***1520. Shri Dev Raj Sethi** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state —

(a) the number of villages in Rohtak District where punitive tax has been levied together with the total amount levied and realised respectively during the year 1952 ;

(b) the steps taken or intended to be taken by the Government to realise the arrears ;

(c) whether any representations have been received by the Government for the withdrawal of the said punitive police posts ; if so, the action taken thereon ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) (i) No. of villages in Rohtak District where punitive police tax has been levied during 1952 .. 71

		Rs	A.	P.
(ii) Total amount levied	..	97,730	0	0
(iii) Total amount realized	..	44,865	5	6

[Chief Minister]

(b) The question of exemption of certain persons from the payment of punitive police tax is under examination and as soon as this has been done, the arrears will be realized in the oridinary course of recovery procedings admissible under the rules.

(c) Yes; the representations were considered, but there being no justifiable grounds for the withdrawal of the posts before the expiry of their terms, no action was taken thereon.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: In part 'B' of the answers, the Chief Minister has stated that the question of exemption of certain persons from the payment of the Punitive Police Tax is under examination. May I know the categories of persons who will be exempted from the payment of this tax.

Chief Minister : The cases of the persons who are not in a position to pay the Tax, are under examination.

TAKING OF BEGAR BY THE OFFICERS OF BORDER CHOWKIES

***1528. Shri Wadhawa Ram** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Police Officers at the Border Chowkies take begar from the inhabitants of the border areas in the shape of fuel, rations, digging of pits etc., if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop this practice ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : No 'Begar' is taken by the Punjab Armed Police personnel posted to the Border pickets. The personnel get free cooked meals. The commodities of their rations and the fuel wood etc., are supplied by contractors approved by the Stores Purchase Officer, Punjab, and the deliveries are made at the pickets concerned.

GRANT OF COMPENSATION DUE TO BORDER INCIDENTS

***1527. Shri Wadhawa Ram** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state —

(a) whether any compensation is allowed to the relatives of those people who are killed at the border raids ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether any allowance is granted by the Government to those people at the border who are provided with rifles ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) No. However, provision exists for the grant of rewards or compensation to those who help the administration or expose themselves to danger in doing so. If any one receives an injury or is killed while assisting the administration, the reward or compensation is suitably higher.

(b) No. Rifles and ammunition are provided free of cost to them on a voluntary basis for their own security and that of their fellow villagers.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Does it not form the responsibility of the Government to compensate the dependants of those who are killed on the border ?

Chief Minister : How are they killed ?

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Because they live at the borders.

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITTEES

***1549. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state —

(a) the personnel of the State Anti-Corruption Committee, if any, and the number of cases so far dealt with by it together with its findings or recommendations therein ;

(b) the personnel of the District Anti-Corruption Committees, district-wise, in the State and the number of cases of corruption dealt with by each one of them together with their findings or recommendations in each case ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: (a) The personnel of the State Anti-Corruption Committee is as follows: —

Chief Minister ..	Chairman
Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab ..	Member
Inspector-General of Police ..	Member

As regards the other information the time and labour involved in its collection will be incommensurate with the benefit likely to accrue.

(b) The personnel of the District Anti-Corruption Committees is given in the statement below :—

District	*Personnel*
1. Gurdaspur ..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
2. Ambala ..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P. (3) Government Pleader (4) Civil Surgeon (5) Executive Engineer, P. W. D. Ambala Provincial Division (6) A. I. G., Government Railway Police

[Chief Minister]

District—continued		*Personnel*
3. Amritsar	..	(1) D. C. (2) Senior Superintendent of Police (3) P. A. to the Deputy Commissioner.
4. Kangra	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P. (3) Shri Hem Raj, M. P. (4) Shri Kishen Chand Puri, M. L. C. (5) Shri Hari Ram (6) District Public Relations Officer.
5. Ferozepore	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. S. P.
6. Karnal	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
7. Jullundur	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
8. Rohtak	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
9. Hissar	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
10. Ludhiana	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
11. Gurgaon	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
12. Hoshiarpur	..	(1) D. C. (2) District and Sessions Judge. (3) S. P.

In addition to the personnel mentioned above, Government have formed a panel of names for the various districts and the Deputy Commissioner of a district has been authorised to associate two non-officials with the District Anti-Corruption Committees from among the panel of names formed for the district. As regards the other information required, the time and labour involved in its collection will be incommensurate with the benefit likely to accrue.

Shri Babu Dayal : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of cases in which the Anti-Corruption Committee found.......

Mr. Speaker : Not allowed.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police usually act as members of the District Anti-Corruption Committees. What useful purpose does the panel of non-official members attached to these committees serve?

Chief Minister : It is the duty of these officers to investigate the complaints received by them. The association of non-official element with these committees enables them to do the work in a more effective manner. Moreover, it gives a popular colouring to the whole work. Non-official element is associated with these committees in order to enable them to see how the work is done. If any fact comes to their notice they can suggest the manner in which enquiry into a particular case should be conducted.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : What is the use of associating M. L. A.s. with these committees if they have no power except to make complaints to the Deputy Commissioners or the Superintendents of Police ?

Chief Minister : They are associated with these committees so that any particular steps suggested by them may be taken. For example, if they are of the opinion that in a particular case certain evidence should be recorded or enquiry conducted in a particular manner, the Committee can act according to their instructions.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : Out of the twelve districts in the State the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police are members of such Committees in eight districts but in Ambala, Amritsar and Kangra some publicmen and the Civil Surgeons have also been associated with these. What is the reason for this distinction ?

Chief Minister : I shall have to find out the reason for this. In my opinion this was done before I became the Chief Minister.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that these Committees consisting mostly of the Deputy Commissioners and S. Ps. have been constituted in all the districts. At some places non-official element is also said to have been associated with these. Are these committees merely advisory in capacity or have they some powers too ?

Chief Minister: As a matter of fact if a person commits an offence, there is no need for that case being investigated by an Anti-Corruption Committee. Anybody can go and lodge a complaint and the official machinery will be set in motion. Ordinarily, the work can be done in this manner but these committees have been constituted so that it may be done more thoroughly and after going through the case the members of the committee may be in a position to advise how it should be done. For instance, if a complaint is received against an official of the Civil Supplies Department, that department can itself take necessary action but when that case is placed before the Committee it will be able to advise the department how to act and how not to act.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Chief Minister does not appear to have followed my question clearly . If in a particular case the Committee comes to the conclusion that a person is guilty, has it the power to take action against him or it can only make a recommendation to the Government?

Chief Minister : They have the power to move the proper official machinery. They take the steps which they are empowered to take but for any other action they have to seek permission from the Government.

FIRING BY JAIL AUTHORITIES OF CENTRAL JAIL, AMBALA

*1568. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the circumstances under which firing was resorted to by the Jail authorities of Central Jail, Ambala in the first week of February, 1953 ;

(b) the number of rounds fired, list of casualties, including dead and injured ;

(c) whether any jail officials were wounded in their attempt to enter barracks for stopping the fighting ; if so, their list ;

(d) whether any enquiry was ordered into the incidents referred to above ; if so, the findings thereof ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) No firing was resorted to in the Central Jail, Ambala in the first week of February 1953.

(b), (c) and (d) Question does not arise.

PUNITIVE POLICE POST AT VILLAGE KILLI GUDDA, DISTRICT FEROZEPORE

*1621. **Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is intending to impose a punitive police post at Village Kilii Gudda, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepore; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether he has received any representation from the residents of the village mentioned in part (a) above ; if so, the action, if any, Government proposes to take thereon ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: (a) A proposal for the location of a punitive police post at the cost of the inhabitants of Villages Killi Gudda, Fatehgarh Sabraon and Gatte Bad Shah, District Ferozepore, is under the considera- tion of the district officers, but it has not yet reached Government. The reason for this proposal is the disturbed condition of the villages and the conduct of their inhabitants.

(b) Yes ; this representation is also under consideration .

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state as to what were the distrurbances which necessitated that action ?

Chief Minister : The district authorities have to deal with these things and the Government has not yet received full report about the whole matter.

FLOODS IN JUMNA RIVER IN AMBALA DISTRICT

*1338. **Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut** : Will the Minister for Develop- ment be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of villages affected by the recent floods in Jumna River in the Ambala District ;

(b) the relief, if any, given by the Government to the people of the above villages in the shape of taccavi and remission in land revenue ; if not, the reason therefor ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) *Nil.*

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Has the land of some villages gone to the other side of the border on account of the rivers having changed their courses towards this side ?

(No reply).

CASES OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS IN THE STATE

***1466. Shri Rala Ram** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of cases of cruelty to animals registered and challaned during the period from July, 1952 to December, 1952 in the State together with the number of those convicted therein ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : 464 and 404, respectively.

PAYMENT OF PENALTY FOR TRESPASSING OF STRAY CATTLE INTO GOVERNMENTAL FORESTS

***1468. Shri Rala Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the owners of cattle trespassing into Governmental Forests are required to pay a penalty double of what it was in the year 1943-44 ; if so, the reasons therefor ; together with the amounts of penalty so levied in respect of buffaloes, cows, camels and goats, respectively ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : No penalty but compensation is realizable from offenders under section 68 of the Indian Forest Act. The rates of compensation have been increased as compared with the rates current in the year 1943-44. The increase was necessitated because the previous rates were low and did not prove effective. The following table gives the rates of compensation current in the year 1943-44 and those current now :—

Division	*Rates in 1943-44*				*Rates in force now.*			
	Buffaloes	Cows	Camels	Goats	Buffaloes	Cows	Camels	Goats
	Rs.	Rs A. P.	Rs	Rs A. P.	Rs	Rs A. P.	Rs	Rs A. P.
Hoshiarpur ..	2	0 8 0	2	0 8 0	4	1 0 0	4	1 0 0
Ambala ..	2	0 8 0	2	0 12 0	4	1 0 0	4	1 8 0
Kangra ..	2	0 8 0	..	0 4 0	3	1 0 0	..	0 8 0
Karnal/Hissar ..	2	1 0 0	4	0 8 0	4	1 0 0	4	1 0 0
Gurgaon/Rohtak ..	This Divison was created in 1948				4	1 0 0	4	1 8 0
Kulu ..	8	0 6 0	..	0 6 0	8	0 10 0	8	0 12 0
Seraj ..	2	0 6 0	..	0 4 0	4	0 8 0	..	0 8 0
Amritsar ..	This Division did not exist in 1943-44				3	1 8 0	4	0 12 0
Beas ..	2	0 8 0	..	..	4	1 0 0	..	..
Ludhiana ..	2	1 0 0	4	0 4 0	2	1 0 0	4	0 4 0

EJECTMENT OF TENANTS IN THE STATE

*1493. **Shri Teg Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the total number of tenants, district-wise, in the State who have been served with notices of ejectments up to November, 1952, together with the number of those who have filed objections against such notices up to 15th January, 1953 ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : A statement is given below :—

Name of District		Number of tenants who have been served with notices of ejectment up to 15th November 1952.	Number of tenants who have filed objections against such notices up to 15th January 1953.
1. Hissar	..	1,980	507
2. Rohtak	..	1,679	302
3. Gurgaon	..	927	81
4. Karnal	..	1,430	224
5. Ambala	..	1,424	253
6. Simla	..	1	1
7. Kangra	..	460	293
8. Hoshiarpur	..	633	171
9. Jullundur	..	698	38
10. Ludhiana	..	467	56
11. Amritsar	..	1,656	115
12. Ferozepore	..	5,760	522
13. Gurdaspur	..	388	35
Total	..	17,503	2,598

COMPLETION OF TUBE-WELLS IN JAGADHRI AREA

*1516. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Tube-wells completed in the Jagadhari area by the Associated Tube-wells Co. till 31st January 1953 ;

(b) the total number of Tube-wells which the said company had to complete by the said date under the terms of the contract ;

(c) the penalty, if any, imposed upon the company for committing a default in the performance of its contract ;

(d) the date on which the Tube-wells which have been completed were handed over to the Government ;

(e) the number of tube-wells in working order and the number of days for which each of them was worked ;

(f) the number of tube-wells which are out of order and the reasons for the same together with the steps taken by the Government to repair them ;

(g) the number of tube-wells which have so far not started functioning owing to transmission lines not having been installed, or the non-supply of electric energy for which the Electricity Department was responsible ;

(h) the capacity of each tube-well for pumping water together with the average number of working hours in the case of each per day ;

(i) the total quantity of water pumped out per day ;

(j) the total number of tube-wells out of order due to silting;

(k) the steps taken or intended to be taken by the Government to see that the said company completes its quota of tube-wells by 31st March, 1953 under the terms of its agreement ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) 120.

(b) 160.

(c) The question of levying penalty is under consideration.

(d) A statement showing the requisite information is given below.

(e) Three tube-wells are doing irrigation since 12th November 1952.

(f) None.

(g) (i) Number of tube-wells which have not yet started functioning—117
(ii) Number of tube-wells in respect of which test reports have been submitted to the Electricity Branch and have yet to be energised—10.

[Minister for Development]

(iii) No. of tube-wells for which transmission lines have not yet been installed or in respect of which such installation is in hand—107.

(h) (i) Two cusecs.

(ii) 22 hours per day per tube-well.

(i) About 32 cusecs.

(j) Nil.

(k) The question of the operation of the Penalty clause on the shortfall in the monthly programme of construction of tube-wells according to the Supplemental Agreement with the Company, is under the consideration of the Government.

STATEMENT

Serial No.	Well No.	Group No.	Reach No.	Date of acceptance
1	7	III	II	27th June 1952
2	10	III	II	27th June 1952
3	7	II	II	13th June 1952
4	8	II	II	26th June 1952
5	9	II	II	26th June 1952
6	42	..	IV	23rd July 1952
7	43	..	IV	23rd July 1952
8	44	..	IV	23rd July 1952
9	46	..	IV	23rd July 1952
10	47	..	IV	23rd July 1952
11	50	..	IV	24th July 1952
12	51	..	IV	24th July 1952
13	52	..	IV	24th July 1952
14	58	..	IV	9th August 1952
15	56	..	IV	10th August 1952
16	54		IV	10th August 1952
17	55	..	IV	10th August 1952
18	59		IV	15th August 1952
19	60	..	IV	17th August 1952
20	13	II	II	23rd September 1952
21	14	II	II	23rd September 1952
22	5	III	II	23rd September 1952
23	13	III	II	21st September 1952
24	41	..	IV	30th September 1952
25	3	II	IV-A	26th September 1952
26	4	II	IV-A	26th September 1952
27	5	II	IV-A	26th September 1952
28	6	II	IV-A	26th September 1952
29	1	II	IV-A	27th September 1952
30	2	II	IV-A	29th September 1952
31	8	II	IV-A	30th September 1952
32	9	II	IV-A	10th October 1952
33	10	II	IV-A	10th October 1952
34	11	II	IV-A	13th October 1952
35	12	II	IV-A	15th October 1952
36	2	III	IV-A	10th October 1952
37	6	III	IV-A	24th October 1952
38	3	III	IV-A	15th October 1952
39	1	III	IV-A	15th October 1952
40	7	III	IV-A	24th October 1952
41	8	III	IV-A	24th October 1952

Serial No.	Well No.	Group No.	Reach No.	Date of acceptance
42	6	II	II	14th October 1952
43	16	II	II	31st October 1952
44	15	II	II	25th October 1952
45	2	I	IV-A	31st October 1952
46	4	III	IV-A	27th October 1952
47	5	III	IV-A	27th October 1952
48	9	III	IV-A	27th October 1952
49	10	III	IV-A	27th October 1952
50	2	III	I	3rd November 1952
51	1	I	IV-A	4th November 1952
52	12	II	II	12th November 1952
53	3	III	I	12th November 1952
54	1	III	I	15th November 1952
55	5	III	I	25th November 1952
56	4	III	I	26th November 1952
57	1	..	V-A	27th November 1952
58	2	..	V-A	27th November 1952
59	3	..	V-A	27th November 1952
60	4	..	V-A	27th November 1952
61	5	..	V-A	27th November 1952
62	6	..	V-A	27th November 1952
63	7	..	V-A	27th November 1952
64	11	..	V-A	30th November 1952
65	12	..	V	30th November 1952
66	12	III	II	30th November 1952
67	13	..	V-A	1st December 1952
68	14	..	V-A	9th December 1952
69	15	..	V-A	9th December 1952
70	16	..	V-A	9th December 1952.
71	17	..	V-A	9th December 1952.
72	18	..	V-A	23rd December 1952
73	19	..	V-A	21st December 1952
74	20	..	V-A	21st December 1952
75	21	..	V-A	21st December1952
76	22	..	V-A	21st December 1952
77	23	..	V-A	21st December 1953
78	24	..	V-A	23rd December 1952
79	25	..	V-A	23rd December 1252
80	26	..	V-A	23rd December 1952
81	27	..	V-A	23rd December 1952
82	28	..	V-A	23rd December 1952
83	29	..	V-A	30th December 1952
84	30	..	V-A	30th December 1955
85	1	III	II	12th December 1952
86	1	..	III	20th December 1952
87	6	..	III	20th December 1952
88	2	II	I	31st December 1952
89	11	II	II	31st December 1952
90	1	I	V-B	30th December 1952
91	2	I	V-B	30th December 1952
92	4	I	V-B	30th December 1952
93	5	I	V-B	31st December 1952
94	6	I	V-B	31st December 1952
95	3	I	V-B	8th January 1953
96	1	II	V-B	20th January 1953
97	2	II	V-B	20th January 1953
98	3	II	V-B	20th January 1953
99	4	II	V-B	20th January 1953
100	5	II	V-B	21st January 1953
101	6	II	V-B	21st January 1953
102	7	II	V-B	21st January 1953
103	1	II	I	9th January 1953
104	3	II	I	31st January 1953
105	1	I	I	31st January 1953
106	4	II	I	31st January 1953

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Serial No.	Well No.	Group No.	Reach No.	Date of acceptance
107	9	III	II	31st January 1953
108	11	III	II	31st January 1953
109	1	IV	II	31st January 1953
110	2	IV	II	29th January 1953
111	3	IV	II	31st January 1953
112	2	..	III	29th January 1953
113	7	..	III	30th January 1953
114	10	..	III	29th January 1953
115	11	..	III	29th January 1953
116	36	..	IV	21st January 1953
117	45	..	IV	27th January 1953
118	48	..	IV	27th January 1953
119	53	..	IV	22nd January 1953
120	57	..	IV	22nd January 1953

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: The hon. Minister has stated that out of the equipment of 120 tube-wells which were received by the Government only three tube wells have been installed and are working while the remaining 117 tube-wells are not working. May I know the reason for it ?

Minister for Development: A reply to this has already been given in part (g) of this question.

REINSTATEMENT OF TENANTS ON THEIR LANDS IN THE STATE

***1525. Shri Wadhawa Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of tenants, district-wise' in the State who had applied for reinstatement on their lands in the year 1952 together with the number of those who were reinstated.

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : A statement showing the number of tenants in each district of the State who had applied for reinstatement on their lands in their year 1952, together with the number of those who were reinstated is given below :—

Serial No.	Name of district	Number of tenants who had applied for reinstatement on their lands in the year 1952	Number of tenants who were reinstated during the year 1952
1	Hissar ..	169	74
2	Rohtak ..	546	431
3	Gurgaon ..	208	102

Serial No.	Name of district		Number of tenants who had applied for reinstatement on their lands in the year 1952	Number of tenants who were reinstated during the year 1952
4	Karnal	..	116	56
5	Ambala	..	153	67
6	Simla	..	..	..
7	Kangra	..	145	18
8	Hoshiarpur	..	87	32
9	Jullundur	..	6	5
10	Ludhiana	..	109	37
11	Ferozepore	..	323	121
12	Amritsar	..	145	36
13	Gurdaspur	..	18	13
	Total	..	2,025	992

TRACTORS IN FEROZEPORE DISTRICT

***1533. Shri Wadhawa Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the total number of tractors, tehsil-wise, in Ferozepore District together with the area of land cultivated by them ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : A statement is given below—

Serial No.	Name of Tehsil		Number of tractors	Area cultivated with the tractors tahsil-wise (in acres)
1	Ferozepore	..	25	5,000
2	Fazilka	..	184	31,400
3	Muktsar	..	48	11,000
4	Zira	..	21	4,000
5	Moga	..	25	3,000
	Total	..	303	54,400

CHOS IN NARAINGARH TEHSIL

***1575. Shri Sadhu Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the area of the beds of the chos in Tehsil Naraingarh and its proportion to the total area in the said tehsil ;
(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the chos are extending the area of their beds ; if so, the steps, if any, taken by the Government to arrest such extension ;
(c) the names of villages with said tehsil which are within the range of the chos together with the steps, if any, taken by the Government to protect these villages ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) Area: 43,517 acres. Proportion: Approximately 1/6.

(b) Yes. With a view to combating the evil of cho menace in the past a Regional Working Plan has been prepared for the whole of Naraingarh Tahsil, which deals with future soil conservation measures to be adopted in different chos of the Tahsil including torrent training works. Torrent training measures mainly consist of afforestation works combined with construction of cheap wooden—brushwood spurs which result in creating conditions favourable for silt deposition in cho beds.

(c) A statement giving the requisite information is given below :—

STATEMENT

The names of villages, under the cho-beds of Tehsil, which are within the range of chos are detailed below :—

SADA DEHNI CHO	..	Sarawan, Majri, Kanipla, Pandon, Rajpura, Sadhaura, Patti Nadi Par, Ismailpur, Fazalpur, Salimpur, Ratuwala, Ratauli, Aslam Nagar Bana Bahadaur Pur, Mirzapur, Gullapur, Jafarpur Jafari, Tior, Kotla, Pirwali, Kandaiwala, Chanchak, Manhari, Bohliwala, Todarpur, Tibri, Saidopur, Sultanpur.
MARKANDA NADI	..	Shahpur, Gadoli, Raiyanwala, Paharipur, Ganoli, Ambli, Khanpur, Labana, Rampur Raiyan, Ferozepore Raiyan, Bakala, Dehar, Nanehara, Rasulpur, Milk Jhalian, Bari Rasor, Chhoti Rasor, Shahpur, Hamidpur, Salehpur, Dera, Rao Mazra, Mianpur, Toka, Manakpur.
BEONA NADI	..	Badhauli, Sherpur, Parail, Rajauli, Panjeoton, Bari, Barheri, Chhotti Barheri, Baktuha, Salawala, Patrehari, Taharpur, Burj Shahid, Sadaqpur, Banaundi, Baragarh, Chhota Garh, Chhajal Mazra, Chhoti Basi, Akbarpur, Kheriki, Manakpur, Jangu Mazra, Mirpur, Bataura, Danora, Khanpur, Rajputan, Laha, Kohara Bhura, Fatehpur, Pulewala, Mandlai, Wasalpur, Ujjal Majri, Nowgawan.
AMRI CHO	..	Chhota Korwa, Babak Mazra, Charoli, Nagal, Sontali, Shahzadpur Majra, Bapoli, Chhotan, Kalal Majri, Khanpur Brahmanan.
AMLA CHO	..	Nasraoli, Behloli, Berpura, Dhanana, Gobindpur, Mankandpur.
BALYAI CHO	..	Dehari, Patwi, Dabkaura, Tasraula, Tasrauli, Kakrali, Behbalpur, Golpura, Baghwali, Tharwa, Samanwan, Hangoli, Hangola, Bhanwali, Bhagpur, Ferozepore, Dandlawar, Payarwala, Hareoli.
TANDRI NADI AND MEDKHAN CHO		Chhajju Mazra, Foron, Jatwar, Khera Jatan, Samru, Tapla, Sadapur, Raiwali, Chanipur, Fatehgarh, Jaspur, Khera Chani, Toda, Natwal, Nawan Gaon alias Khadar, Mauli, Tabar Sarakpur, Haripur, Khatauli, Hareoli, Bazidpur, Tibi Mazra,

TANDRI NADI AND MEDKHAN CHO—*concld*

Barauna Kalan, Dhandaru, Batwal, Sukhdarshanpur, Toka, Kanoli, Manak Tabra, Shahpur, Alipur, Garhi Kotaha, Bharaul Kaimbwala, Taorain, Badhaur, Ratewali, Talokpur, Bhud, Ganeshpur, Dudlopur, Khet Purali, Tibi, Bhila, Kot Shimlipur, Bhanun, Lana, Kherwali, Parwala.

List of villages where cho-training works have been successfully completed :—

(1) Laha .. (2) Shahazadpur

Names of villages where works are still in progress :—

Nadi	*Village*
Sadadehni	.. Tibri Saidopur.
Markanda	.. Gadauli
Begna	.. Laha.
"	.. Ujjal Majri.
"	.. Nogawan.
Dangri	.. Khera Jattan.
Medkhan	.. Kot.

CONSOLIDATION OF LAND HOLDINGS IN THE STATE

***1584. Shri Ram Chandra Comrade:** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the tehsils in the State together with the number of villages in each Tehsil where the work of consolidation of land has been undertaken by the Government ;

(b) the number of the villages together with their area in acres where the consolidation work has been completed ;

(c) the number of the villages together with their total acreage where the consolidation work is still incomplete ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

(a) (i) Number of villages taken up before 1st April 1951

Name of District	*Name of Tehsil*	*No. of villages*
Amritsar ..	Amritsar ..	16
	Patti ..	2
	Tarn Taran ..	16
	Total ..	34
Gurdaspur ..	Gurdaspur ..	17
	Batala ..	18
	Total ..	35
Hoshiarpur ..	Hoshiarpur ..	17
	Una ..	8
	Dasuya ..	12
	Garhshankar ..	12
	Total ..	49

[Minister for Develo pment]

Name of District	*Name of Tehsil*	*No. of villages*
Jullundur	.. Jullundur	.. 18
	Phillaur	.. 22
	Nawanshahr	.. 15
	Nakodar	.. 11
	Total	.. 66
Ferozepore	.. Moga	.. 10
	Total	.. 10
Ludhiana	.. Ludhiana	.. 18
	Samrala	.. 15
	Jagraon	.. 6
	Total	.. 39
Ambala	.. Rupar	.. 9
	Kharar	.. 15
	Naraingarh	.. 5
	Ambala	.. 21
	Jagadhri	.. 21
	Total	.. 71
Karnal	.. Thanesar	.. 17
	Karnal	.. 21
	Panipat	.. 9
	Kaithal	.. 8
	Total	.. 55
Rohtak	.. Rohtak	.. 5
	Gohana	.. 2
	Sonepat	.. 3
	Jhajjar	.. 3
	Total	.. 13
Hissar	.. Hansi	.. 4
	Total	.. 4
Gurgaon	.. Rewari	.. 2
	Gurgaon	.. 2
	Total	.. 4
	Grand Total	.. 380

(ii) **Number of villages taken up after 1st April 1951**

Serial No.	*Name of Tehsil*		*No. of villages*
1	Tarn Taran	..	268
2	Batala	..	374
3	Nurpur	..	122
4	Garhshankar	..	273
5	Phillaur	..	156
6	Moga	..	169
7	Samrala	..	196
8	Rupar	..	120
9	Thanesar	..	368
10	Rohtak	..	128
11	Hansi	..	94
12	Gurgaon	..	193
	Total	..	2,461

(iii) **Number of villages taken after 1st July 1952**

1	Nawanshahr	..	164
2	Zira	..	153
3	Jagraon	..	67
4	Jagadhri	..	367
5	Sonepat	..	212
6	Hissar	..	37
7	Ballabgarh	..	139
8	Karnal	..	28
	Total	..	1,167

(b) The total number of villages so far repartitioned is 1,545 with an area of 12,11,771 acres while the number finally attested is 857 with an area of 5,30,680 acres. The number of villages of which Khatauni Ishtemal has been completed in category (iii) above is 703.

(c) The total number of villages which have not so far been completed is 3,151 with an area of 35,07,630 acres.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE STATE

*1595. **Shri Teg Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Co-operative Societies so far established in the State ;

(b) the total number of new Co-operative Societies that were established and closed during the period from 1st April, 1952 to 31st December, 1952 ;

(c) the steps taken by the Co-operative Department to establish Co-operative Societies together with the yearly expenditure incurred thereon ;

(d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government during the period from 1st January, 1952 to 31st December, 1952 on all the Co-operative Societies in the State ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) 17,170 Societies were established up to 31st January, 1953.

(b) 644 new Co-operative Societies were registered while 439 Societies were cancelled.

(c) The field staff carried out intensive propaganda for organising different types of Co-operative Societies during their tours in villages. As a result of this, the addition in the number of such societies in the last three years together with the yearly expenditure incurred thereon was as follows:—

Year		*Number increased*	*Amount incurred*
			Rs
1949-50	..	259	19,14,669
1950-51	..	801	16,97,006
1951-52	..	768	15,50,885

(d) Rs 13,78,501 during this period.

EMPLOYMENT OF AMERICANS ON THE WORKS OF BHAKRA DAM

*1449. **Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut** : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Americans employed by the Government for the Bhakra Dam together with the branches in which they are employed ;

(b) the maximum and the minimum salary drawn by the Americans working for the Bhakra Dam ;

(c) the total sum which the American Experts referred to above are paid annually in the shape of wages and other allowances ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : (a) 41 American Specialists are at present employed on Bhakra-Nangal Project. They are working in the Design and Construction Branches of Bhakra Dam Administration.

(b) The maximum fee paid is 28,000 dollars per annum exclusive of Indian and U. S. A. income-tax.

The minimum fee paid is 8,400 dollars per annum free of income-tax.

(c) About Rs 40,88,000.

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE EMPLOYEES OF CANAL DEPARTMENT

*1494. **Shri Teg Ram** : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state the total number of complaints received by the Government during the year ending on the 31st December, 1952, against the employees of the Canal Department for accepting bribes, the number of those against whom action has so far been taken ; the number found guilty together with the nature of punishment awarded in each case ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The total number of complaints received by the Government during the year ending 31st December, 1952, against the employees of the Canal Department for accepting bribes was 206, the number of those on which action was taken was 70 and the number of guilty 6. The nature of punishment awarded in each case is as follows :—

(1) Three were dismissed.

(2) One was suspended but after trial has been discharged by the Court.

(3) In case of one's pay is to be reduced to the minimum of the time scale (final orders are yet to be passed).

(4) One was transferred.

Other complaints were found baseless.

TUBE-WELL IRRIGATION IN THE STATE

*1547. **Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht**: Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state—

(a) the tehsils or sub-tehsils, district-wise, selected for tube-well irrigation in the State as a result of preliminary survey by the Government ;

(b) the number of tube-wells to be bored in each area referred to in part (a) above together with the number so far bored, being bored and to be bored under the Five-Year-Plan ;

[Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht]

(c) whether any priority is intended to be given to certain areas in this connection ; if so, the order of such priority together with the reasons therefor ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : (a) and (b) A statement is given below:—

Serial No.	Name of District	Name of Tehsil	*Abdullapur-Radaur Scheme*		*Panipat-Munak Scheme*		*Jagadhri Tube-wells Scheme*		*T.C.A. Tube-wells Scheme*		*Total*	
			Tube-wells completed	Tube-wells to be completed	Tube-wells completed	Tube-wells to be completed	Tube-wells completed	Tube-wells to be completed	Tube-wells completed	Tube-wells to be completed	Tube-wells completed	Tube-wells to be completed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Amabla	Jagadhri	8	..	..	..	13	15	..	15	21	30
2	Karnal	Thanesar	10	..	..	..	128	100	..	40	138	140
		Karnal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75	24	75
		Panipat	..	..	24	..	..	..	..	85	..	85
3	Rohtak	Sonepat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	140	..	140
4	Ludhiana	Samrala	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total	18	..	24	..	141	115	..	355	183	470

Note. Jagadhri Tube-wells Scheme columns 8 and 9 comprises of 256 tube-wells along the Western Jumna Canal and its Branches for supplementing its supply. No direct irrigation is proposed from these tube-wells.

(c) Location of tube-wells in various tehsils of the State has been based on the advice of the inspection party of Tube-wells experts from the Government of India.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht: In reply to part (c) of the question, the hon. Minister has stated that the tube-wells have been installed in consultation with the Survey Party which had undertaken a tour of different *ilaqas*. May I know whether the tour programme of this Survey Party was chalked out by the Government of India or by this Government ?

Minister : I have no information about this.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht: May I know which districts were visited by this party ?

Minister : This is a long list. The information could be supplied to the hon. Member if he had given notice of this question. I would ask the hon. Member to give a fresh notice of this question and the necessary information will be supplied to him.

Shri Babu Dayal: May I know whether this party visited Gurgaon District ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

BHAKRA DAM AND NANGAL HYDEL CHANNEL

***1588. Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken by the Government to complete the Bhakra Dam and Nangal Hydel Channel within the scheduled time and within the limit of the estimate of the Budget already approved by the Bhakra Control Board for these Projects ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : 1. Appointment of Bhakra Control Board, which is charged with the over-all technical and financial control of the project, and sees that works are executed in accordance with the provisions made in the project.

2. Appointment of a Consulting Board of eminent specialists in high Dam construction. This Board advises on the technical feasibility of various design and construction problems connected with the work. The appointment of the Consulting Board ensures that intricate problems are thoroughly examined before a solution is accepted and the most economical design is adopted.

3. Appointment of American specialists experienced in various aspects of high Dam construction for assisting Indian Engineers in the execution of the multipurpose project.

4. Delegation of enhanced powers to officers in charge of construction to expedite the execution of works.

5. Appointment of a whole-time Chief Accounts Officer for the project, who is charged solely with the auditing and accounting of all transactions in connection with the Bhakra Dam Project.

6. Every effort is being made to get adequate experienced personnel though lot of difficulty is being experienced.

7. Supply of key materials like cement, steel is being tied up with the Government of India.

8. Construction Planning is being pushed on and orders are being placed for construction and permanent equipment as soon as the plans are ready.

9. So far as the Bhakra Dam is concerned, the separation of authority for execution and progress from the authority charged with ensuring specifications and quality has been effected. In this manner, both progress and quality are given equal importance and neither is allowed to be sacrificed at the expense of the other.

The target dates for completion of various works are :—

Tunnels	.. June 1953
River to be diverted in winter of	.. 1953-54.
The dam is to be completed	.. 1958-59.
Rail-cum-road bridge across Sutlej on the down-stream side of the Dam is expected to be completed in	.. May 1953.

[Minister for Irrigation]

Nangal Dam has already been constructed but for the installation of gates and gearing which is in hand.

Completion of Nangal Hydel Channel ..	By May 1954
Power House I ..	July 1954
Power House II ..	November 1955
Major portion of Bhakra Irrigation System ..	By May 1954 provided cement and funds are available.

Channels are opened as soon as they are completed. Thus, Sidhwan and Barwala branches and 5 new distributaries of Sirhind Canal were opened in 1951 and 1,32,270 acres were irrigated during 1952.

Expenditure up to end of January 1953, Rs 44.53 crores.

It is proposed to spend 25·71 crores during 1953-54 if funds to this extent are made available. The completion of this project depends upon:—

(a) adequate quantity of cement.

(b) adequate finances.

Shri Ram Kishan : While giving a reply to this question the hon. Minister has stated that it is proposed to spend 25.71 crores of rupees during the year 1953-54 if funds to this extent are made available. May I know whether the Government has made arrangement for the necessary funds for the year 1953-54 ?

Minister : This Budget is approved by the Government of India and it is for that Government to allot funds for this purpose. This Budget has not yet been finalized .

Shri Ram Kishan : It has been stated that the completion of this project depends upon (i) adequate quantity of cement ; (ii) adequate finance. May I know whether the Government has made arrangement for these two things ?

Minister : Whatever cement is manufactured in India , its distribution to different States is made by the Central Government. We have not been able to get as much quantity of cement as we had demanded. The Central Government is trying to give cement according to our demand. So far as the allotment of funds is concerned, we have put up our demand to the Central Government and it is for that Government to accept our demand.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO BLOOD RELATIONS

*710. **Sardar Darshan Singh** : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is the policy of the Government to allot land to blood relations at one place as far as possible ;

(b) whether it is a fact that one Ajaib Singh, son of S. Mangal Singh of Village Bua Nangal, Tehsil Ajnala, District Amritsar, has been allotted land separate from his brother, Puran Singh, son of S. Mangal Singh of Village Haishpur, Tehsil Fatehabad, District Hissar ;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative whether Government has devised any machinery to enable refugee land-owners to obtain a speedy redress against any allotment made in violation of the policy referred to in part (a) above ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the said Ajaib Singh, evacuee from Chak No. 519, Tehsil Toba Tek Singh, District Lyallpur, and owning "A" Class land there has been allotted uncultivable "C" class land on the bank of river Ravi ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) Yes ; provided applications seeking consolidation were made before 30th November, 1949, by which date State Government had invited such applications.

(b) Yes.

(c) There is no remedy if an application was not put in time and no area is now available.

(d) It is a fact that Shri Ajaib Singh abandoned first grade land in Pakistan and he has been allotted land in Village Nangal Amb, Tehsil Ajnala, District Amritsar, which falls in grade II. Allotment in a lower grade was unavoidable in view of shortage of grade I area.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister please say if the Government is prepared to reconsider at this stage the applications of those blood relations who had applied but who were not allotted land at the same place ?

Minister for Finance : If my hon. Sister brings any specific case of this nature to my notice, it will definitely be considered even at this stage subject to the availability of land.

DECLARING HOUSE NO. B-III-927 AS EVACUEE PROPERTY

*1515. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi** : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the date on which House No. B-III-927 in Rohtak was declared as evacuee property ;

(b) the dates on which the Assistant Custodian, Rohtak, issued notices to the unlawful occupant to vacate the said premises ;

(c) whether the possession of the said house has been taken by the Assistant Custodian so far; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) In Punjab State possession of all immovable and movable properties was assumed by the Custodian,—*vide* notification No. 23-P and C/Reh-5927, dated 1st May, 1948. According to the records

[Minister for Finance]
of the Custodian Department, House No. B-III-927 in Rohtak was shown as evacuee property since the date of partition. Later on, plea of adverse possession put forth by Shri Chandgi Ram in respect of this house was rejected by the Additional Custodian.

(b) Several notices were issued for eviction of the unauthorised occupant but the dates of such notices cannot be stated as the record of the case is with the Custodian General, Delhi, in connection with a Revision Petition filed by Shri Chandgi Ram.

(c) Possession of the house could not be taken over because of an order passed by the Custodian-General, Delhi, not to evict the petitioner from the premises till decision of his Revision petition.

ALLOTMENT OF SHAMILATS DEH AND PONDS IN THE VILLAGES

***1534. Shri Wadhawa Ram** : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that in some villages, Shamilats Deh and ponds have been allotted with the result that no common land is left causing hardship to the villagers ;

(b) whether he is also aware of the fact that the houses which are situated in Shamilats Deh have been allotted as culturable land ;

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) Shamilat land of the evacuees share which is neither in public use nor is specifically reserved for common purposes has been allotted to displaced persons because such land is subject to partition amongst the proprietors under the Revenue Law. Village ponds and those Shamilat lands which are in public use or are within the *lal lakir* of the *abadi deh* have, however, been left out of allotment.

(b) No.

(c) In view of the answers to parts (a) and (b) above, this does not arise.

APPLICATION OF PENALTY CUT TO THE EVACUEE LANDS ALREADY ALLOTTED TO THE DISPLACED LAND-OWNERS

***1542. Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether Government has under consideration any proposal to apply a penalty cut to the evacuee lands already allotted to the displaced land-owners coming from West Punjab ; if so, the reasons therefor together with the details of the instructions issued to the authorities concerned in this connection ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : In pursuance of the provisions contained in section 8 of the East Punjab Refugee (Registration of Land Claims) Act, 1948, penalty cut at the following rates is imposed by Government in cases where the allottee of land has filed exaggerated claims—

(a) exaggeration less than 25 per cent ..	No cut.
(b) exaggeration between 25 per cent and 50 per cent	20 per cent on the basis of *Jamabandi* entries.

(c) exaggeration between 50 per cent and 75 per cent	40 per cent	on the basis of *Jamabandi* entries.
(d) exaggeration more than 75 per cent ..	60 per cent	on the basis of *Jamabandi* entries.

A copy of the instructions is given below—

No. 5/Legal and Appeal, dated 18th January 1950.

East Punjab Government, Department of Rehabilitation, Jullundur.

To

ALL DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS AND ADDITIONAL DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS IN EAST PUNJAB.

Subject :—DISPOSAL OF FALSE CLAIMS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF EAST PUNJAB REFUGEE (REGISTRATION OF LAND) CLAIMS ACT, 1948.

Memorandum

Under section 7 of the East Punjab Refugee Registration of Land Claims Act, XII of 1948, displaced persons, who had submitted false claims in respect of land held in West Pakistan are liable to prosecution. They can further be disqualified from the allotment of land under section 8 of the Act. A scrutiny of such cases reveals that about 2,399 false or exaggerated claims were filed by the displaced persons. After mature consideration Government have decided to deal with all such cases as follows :—

1. Persons who have filed totally false claims will be prosecuted irrespective of the area claimed. All such cases will be tried by a special Magistrate, appointed for the purpose at Jullundur.

2. Persons who have filed partially false claims will be dealt with under section 8 of the East Punjab Act, No. 12 (XII) of 1948. No prosecution will be launched in such cases. The scale of penalties to be imposed in such cases will be as follows :—

(a) No action should be taken where exaggeration is less than 25 per cent of the total area.

(b) Where exaggeration is 25 per cent to 50 per cent.	Deduction of 20 per cent from the allotment due (on the basis of *Jamabandi* entries).
(c) Where exaggeration is 50 per cent to 75 per cent.	Deduction of 40 per cent of the land allotment due (on the basis of *Jamabandi* entries).
(d) Where exaggeration is more than 75 per cent.	Deduction of 60 per cent of the land allotment due (on the basis of *Jamabandi* entries).

The exaggeration should be measured in terms of gross acres and not in terms of standard acres or classes of soils.

2. The following procedure is laid down for dealing with partially false claims :—

(a) Each claimant should be sent for and heard before any action is taken by an officer not below the status of Revenue Assistant, Rehabilitation, of the district in which he is to receive the allotment.

(b) Normally the Revenue Assistant, Rehabilitation, should impose the penalty prescribed, but if in any excepted case he thinks that the penalty as prescribed in para 1 (2) above should be reduced he should submit his recommendations to the Additional Deputy Commissioner. If he, the Additional Deputy Commissioner, agrees with the Revenue Assistant, Rehabilitation, he should send the case to the Director-General, Rehabilitation, Rural, for orders, otherwise the Additional Deputy Commissioner can reject Revenue Assistant's recommendations himself.

[Minister for Finance]

3. A list of claimants who have filed partially false claims with necessary particulars is appended herewith. It is requested that immediate action on the lines, indicated above should be taken in all such cases. If allotment orders have already issued these should be reviewed and amended accordingly before possession is delivered.

M. S. RANDHAWA,

Director-General, Rehabilitation (Rural),
East Punjab Government, Jullundur.

Shri Ram Kishan : Has any other action besides imposing cuts on their actual claims been taken against those displaced persons who had filed exaggerated claims ?

Minister : Yes, some of such persons have been dealt with in a different manner also.

Shri Ram Kishan : May I know how they have been dealt with and what is their number ?

Minister : I cannot reply to this question off-hand ; if the hon. Member gives due notice, the reply will be supplied to him.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

***1455. Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina** : Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Municipal Committees of Amritsar, Ludhiana, Karnal and Ambala are paying a dearness allowance of Rs. 5 to each of their employees getting less than Rs. 100;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether a similar allowance is paid by the Simla Municipality ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : (a) Yes. The Municipal Committees of Amritsar and Karnal are, however, not paying the dearness allowance at the increased rate to inferior servants, who get an all-inclusive wage under the Minimum Wages Act.

(b) No, as the financial position of Municipal Committee, Simla, does not warrant the proposed increase in dearness allowance.

PAYMENT OF SALARY TO SARDAR ISHAR SINGH

***1460. Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut** : Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that S. Ishar Singh was relieved from the Primary School, Hussainpur Lalowal, Sub-Tehsil Bhunga, District Hoshiarpur, on 6th November, 1950 ; if so, whether he was given the full payment of his salary up to 6th November, 1950, together with the amount thus paid ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes ; he was given full salary up to 6th November, 1950, at the rate of Rs. 40 per mensem *plus* dearness allowance at the rate of Rs. 25 per mensem.

LEVY OF PROFESSIONAL TAX ON THE VILLAGERS OF DATTA BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, HOSHIARPUR

***1461. Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that Professional Tax has been levied by the District Board on the villagers of Datta, Tehsil Dasuya, District Hoshiarpur ; if so, the rate thereof ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Yes. The Professional Tax is levied by the District Board, Hoshiarpur, on all the persons carrying on professions, trades, callings and employments in the area under its jurisdiction including Village Datta. The rate of tax is governed by a schedule sanctioned by Government in 1947. It is now being substituted with effect from the 1st April, 1953, by a model schedule framed by Government and adopted by all District Boards.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut :. May I know if the District Boards are competent to levy the Professional Tax on weavers engaged in handloom industry also ?

Minister : This tax can be levied on all professions, trades and employments which are set forth in the Schedule.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST TEHSIL PANCHAYAT OFFICER, BALLABGARH, DISTRICT GURGAON

***1546. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether the Government has received any complaints against the former Tehsil Panchayat Officer, Ballabgarh, District Gurgaon; if so, the nature thereof together with the action taken thereon ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes. The complaints related to alleged misappropriation of funds and irregular conduct of Panchayat elections, etc., which are under investigation.

SUSPENSION OF BALLABGARH MUNICIPALITY

***1554. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether any enquiry was made into the complaints against the President and some subordinate employees of the Ballabgarh Municipality which has now been superseded ; if so, the result of the enquiry together with the action taken thereon ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes. As the allegations were not substantiated, the matter was dropped.

PRODUCTION OF WHEAT AND *kapas* IN FEROZEPORE DISTRICT

***1598. Shri Teg Ram :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the total quantity of wheat and *kapas* produced in the Ferozepore District as a whole and in Fazilka Tehsil particularly during the years 1949-50,1951 and 1952, respectively ;

(b) the quantity of wheat and *kapas* exported from the above-mentioned places during the period mentioned in part (a) above ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a)

		Cotton in bales	*Wheat in tons*
	1948-49		
Ferozepore District	..	29,100	1,75,800
Fazilka Tehsil	..	19,200	Not available
	1949-50		
Ferozepore District	..	75,600	1,83,600
Fazilka Tehsil	..	45,300	56,600
	1950-51		
Ferozepore District	..	1,00,200	2,75,400
Fazilka Tehsil	..	61,200	66,900
	1951-52		
Ferozepore District	..	1,26,000	2,42,500
Fazilka Tehsil	..	75,600	65,700
	1952-53		
Ferozepore District	..	1,42,000	Not available
Fazilka Tehsil	..	85,200	Not available

(b) The figures relating to export of wheat are as under—

	Calendar year	Outside the circle but within the State (Tons)	Outside the State (Tons)
Ferozepore District ..	1949	31,365	11,316
	1950	37,926	47,963
	1951	85,973	280
	1952	39,460	18,443
Ferozepore Tehsil ..	1949	6,612	996
	1950	1,728	7,747
	1951	23,434	79
	1952	6,097	996

Similar information regarding the export of cotton is not available.

LEVY OF PROFESSIONAL TAX IN VILLAGE DAULATABAD, DISTRICT GURGAON

***1620. Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit:** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Professional Tax has been levied in Village Daulatabad, Tehsil Ballabgarh, District Gurgaon; if so, the rate thereof ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes ; at the flat rate of Rs. 3 per annum per head, as the assessees in question practise professions for which the aforesaid flat rate is applicable.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Will the hon. Minister enquire whether the District Boards charge Professional Tax at rates varying between Rs. 3 to Rs. 12 or Rs. 15 ?

Minister : The fact of the matter is that the District Boards are provided with a schedule which includes 19 or 20 professions, the rate of Professional Tax on which does not exceed three rupees per annum in any case. This schedule covers all the poor people and the Harijans. But apart from this there is another schedule also. The people who are governed by this schedule are charged more than three rupees as tax.

CO-EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE

***1474. Shri Rala Ram** : Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of co-educational institutions ; primary, secondary and collegiate, in the State at present ?

Shri Jagat Narain : The number of co-educational primary schools and colleges on 31st March, 1952, was as under—

Primary schools	.. 4,591
Colleges	44

There is one co-educational secondary school at Chandigarh but with the previous permission of the Department girls are admitted in boys' schools at the secondary stage at places where there are no separate girls' schools.

SCHOOLS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS IN TEHSIL FAZILKA, DISTRICT FEROZEPORE

***1596. Shri Teg Ram** : Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of High, Middle, Lower Middle and Primary Schools for boys and girls respectively run by the Government, Municipal Committees, District Boards and Private Bodies in Tehsil Fazilka, District Ferozepore ;

(b) the total number of boys and girls studying in the above-mentioned four kinds of schools as on 31st December, 1952, together with the number of those who are studying Hindi, Urdu and Gurmukhi respectively ?

Shri Jagat Narain : (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is given below—

—	High		Middle		Lower Middle		Primary	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Government ..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal Committee ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
District Board ..	2	..	17	..	6	..	109	14
Private ..	2	..	..	1	..	..	7	6
Total ..	6	2	17	1	6	..	120	21

Total number of boys and girls studying in the above-mentioned four kinds of schools .. 17,889

Those studying Hindi .. 10,877

Those studying Gurmukhi .. 10,115

Those Studying Urdu .. 44

STATEMENT MADE BY THE CHIEF MINISTER *RE* FIRING IN THE YOLE CAMP.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : Sir, with your permission I would like to make a statement before the House.

A Press Communique with regard to firing in Yole Camp giving information that is available to the Government was issued on the 7th instant. Since then some newspapers have tried to create an impression on the public that Government has taken no further action in the matter. It has, therefore, become necessary, to describe briefly what has taken place since.

A magisterial enquiry into the incident was commenced almost at once. Subsequent to that, both the Commissioner, Jullundur Division and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Jullundur Range have visited Yole Camp. They also have held an enquiry there and submitted a joint report to Government. Both the report and the general recommendations made by the two Senior Officers of Government therein, have been carefully considered by Government. A senior officer of the Police of the rank of a Deputy Superintendent Police has been put incharge of the investigation. Government propose to see that this investigation is carefully supervised by even more senior officers.

The magisterial enquiry has also concluded and the report is on its way to Government. It will receive a close scrutiny on its receipt. So far two separate criminal cases have been registered with regard to the main incident which took place on the 5th instant. One of these relates to the alleged

contravention of the ban under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code and the alleged attack on the Police. The other has been registered against an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police for alleged indiscriminate firing. It is regretted that it is not possible to disclose the contents of the report of the Commissioner and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police because any such disclosure might prejudice the investigation of the cases which have been registered.

Now Sir, I would like to give in Hindi a summary of the statement that I have just now read for the benefit of those members of the House who do not know English.

It must have come to the notice of the hon. Members that in Yole Camp there took place a very sad incident due to which some precious lives were lost. You as also the Government and everybody else are very sorry for this happening on account of which so many precious lives which included one Deputy Superintendent of Police, two women and some children, were lost. Anyway, it is a very sad happening. Now what is done cannot be undone. But in this connection, so far as the duty of the Government is concerned, it is that if such a thing happens a full and thorough investigation should be carried out into it. In this connection, I have said in this statement that, when this sad happening took place, the Government at once appointed a Magistrate to enquire into it, so that all the available evidence may be marshalled and there may not remain any fear of its getting out of hand. Along with this, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police at once reached the spot. The district officers, of course, had already reached there. The Commissioner also reached there. The report of their investigation has already been received by the Government and it has thoroughly considered that report. Now the magisterial enquiry has also been completed and is on its way to the Government. As soon as it is received by the Government it would give it its full consideration.

But in spite of these facts, there are certain newspapers which are publishing certain stories under bold headlines which aim at showing that the Government is quite oblivious of the matter, and that it is not in the least affected by it. The purpose of such stories appears to be to show that the Government does not move in the matter, that no enquiry will be held and that nobody will be interrogated. I wish to tell this august House that the Government has acted without the least delay in this matter and what should have been done has been done without any delay. Besides, I wish to assure this House that the Government would not allow anything being done which may lead to the throwing of a veil over this tragic happening.

After inquiry proper action will be taken against the culprits. It is obvious that the contents of the report submitted by the Commissioner cannot be disclosed. The case is being registered and any expression of opinion at this stage might prejudice the final decision. I, therefore, beg to be excused by this august House for not disclosing the report as such a thing would be against law. But all the same I may assure the House that the Government will not allow this case to be hushed up.

TRANSACTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH 1953.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

> That Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 19th March, 1953.

[Chief Minister]

Mr. Speaker, we wish that Government business be transacted tomorrow as a lot of work has accumulated. We gave one Thursday to the Opposition but now as work has accumulated and it is to be finished in time we want to make use of this Thursday for transacting Government business.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 19th March, 1953.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the Chief Minister had promised to allot two days for transacting non-official business but now one day is being denied to us. Besides the Chief Whip had made some adjustments with the Opposition and he is going back on his word. We had, as a matter of fact, agreed with him because of his promises. Those promises have not been fulfilled. Even Wednesdays are being utilized by the Government. In fact all this haste is being made for the Kangra election.

Mr. Speaker: Election is common to both the parties.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 19th March 1953.

The motion was carried

DEMAND FOR GRANT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Mr. Speaker : Now I call upon the hon. Minister for Development to move his motion.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir, I move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 85,01,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Community Development Projects.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 85,01,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Community Development Projects.

I have received a large number of the following cut motions and as usual they will be deemed to have been moved.

1. **Professor Sher Singh :**

That the demand be reduced by Rs. one lac.

2. **Shri Gorakh Nath :**

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1,000.

3. **Shri Mool Chand Jain :**

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 101.

4. **Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut :**
5. **Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit :**
6. **Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina :**
7. **Sardar Darshan Singh :**
8. **Sardar Bachan Singh :**
9. **Sardar Nidhan Singh :**
10. **Shri Wadhawa Ram :**

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

11. **Shri Chandi Ram Verma :**

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

12. **Rao Gajraj Singh :**

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

13. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :**

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

14. **Sardar Darbara Singh :**

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

15. **Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :**

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

16. **Sardar Shib Singh :**

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

17. **Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta :**

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Mr. Speaker. Now I call upon Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht to initiate the debate.

Sardar Gopal Singh : On a point of Order, Sir. The Government had promised that the Transport and the Education Demands would be taken up to-day for discussion. In fact we had come prepared for that. But now this promise is not being kept and we are, therefore, walking out as a protest.

(*At this stage the Members of the Opposition walked out of the Assembly Chamber*).

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht (Hassanpur) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, there cannot be two opinions about the expenditure which is to be incurred on the Demand under discussion, i. e., the Community Projects. Perhaps that is why the Opposite benches are to-day empty. Sir, I wish to submit that the independence that we got in 1947 was only a political independence and the real lovers of independence earnestly desired that the country should get economic independence as well. I am reminded of a quotation from the writings of Benjamin Franklin which aptly applies to the conditions that at present prevail in our country.

> There seem to be three ways for a nation to acquire wealth. The first is by war as the Romans did by plundering their conquered neighbours. This is robbery. The second is by commerce which generally speaking is cheating. The third is by agriculture the only honest way wherein man receives a real increase of the seed thrown into the ground in a kind of continual miracle wrought by the hand of God in his favour as a reward for his innocent life and his virtuous industry."

]Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht]

Mr. Speaker, keeping in view the fact that India mainly depends upon Agriculture Government has started the Community Projects. Government has been making this experiment since a long time. This experiment was for the first time started at Atawa in Uttar Pradesh under the name of the Pilot Development Project. The distinguished Indian Engineers as well as American Experts took part in that scheme. At the same time the Firka Development Project was being undertaken in Madras and efforts were made to make a success of the Sarvodaya Scheme in Bombay. All these endeavours gave an incentive to the Members of the Planning Commission to start these schemes throughout the whole of the country. The present scheme of Community Projects fall under the Indo-American Technical Co-operative Agreement (January, 1952), and are 55 in number. Four Community Projects schemes would be launched in our State on which the Government would be required to spend 65 lakhs of rupees out of which 29 lakhs would be given by the Government of India. In regard to the Community Project that is being started at the Faridabad, the Centre has agreed to make a substantial contribution. These Community Project Schemes would include various works like the development of irrigation, construction of roads, opening of new hospitals, manufacturing of scientific manures and the supply of better quality of seeds to the *kisans*. About 55 crores would be spent on these schemes out of which 5 crore dollars would be advanced by the American Government, Sir, gone are the days when the interest of lakhs of people were sacrificed for the benefit of a few persons. It was the age of feudalism, *zamindars* and princes. Afterwards the time came when more attention was being paid for the uplift of the general public. The present is called the democratic age. Then, Sir, the time came when J. S. Mill, a great politician and a philosopher, placed before the world the principle of 'the greatest happiness of the greatest number of people.' Under this principle the greatest number of people were to be given the maximum benefit. But the fact is that this principle did not claim to benefit and uplift all the people of the State. In this connection, I would like to mention the word 'Sarvodaya' which seeks to uplift all the people of the State irrespective of the fact whether a person is rich or poor, weak or strong.

Mr. Speaker, this saying is common in the rural areas that—

एक बूँद अर्श की और सौ बूँद चर्स की।

ਏਕ ਬੂੰਦ ਅਰਸ਼ ਕੀ ਔਰ ਸੌ ਬੂੰਦ ਚਰਸ ਕੀ।

Chars is a leather bucket which is used for drawing water out of a well. Sir this proverb means that every *kisan* cannot get water drawn by *chars* because he has not enough material resources at his command. Similarly, it depend upon the sweet will of the Governmnet to supply canal water to *kisan*. But, the rain supplies water to the land of every *kisan* irrespective of whether he is rich or a poor.

Our society is an Organic whole and not a mechanical combination, the parts of which can be separated at any time. It is an indivisible whole. That is why the Community Projects aim at benefiting and uplifting the people as a whole. If the Communists and other hon. Members in Opposition oppose these schemes I have no grudge against them. I am not the least disturbed on this account.

नई तहज़ीब को क्या वासता है आदमियत से,
जनाबे डारविन को हज़रते आदम से क्या मतलब ।।

जिन्हें गदारियां मवकारियां ही बन गईं ईमां ।।
भला उन को कहां तामीरे कौमो शान से मतलब ।।
ਨਈ ਤਹਜ਼ੀਬ ਕੋ ਕਿਆ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਹੇ ਆਦਮੀਯਤ ਸੇ,
ਜਨਾਬੇ ਡਾਰਵਿਨ ਕੇ ਹਜ਼ਰਤੇ ਆਦਮ ਸੇ ਕਿਆ ਮਤਲਬ ।
ਜਿਨਹੇਂ ਗਦਾਰਿਯਾਂ ਮੱਕਾਰਿਆਂ ਹੀ ਬਨ ਗਈਂ ਈਮਾਂ,
ਭਲਾ ਉਨ ਕੋ ਕਹਾਂ ਤਾਮੀਰੇ ਕੌਮੇ ਸ਼ਾਨ ਸੇ ਮਤਲਬ ॥

But Mr. Speaker, Government must take serious notice if the hon. Members of the Congress Party raise objections in this regard because they really want to bring prosperity to the country.

Mr. Speaker, it was Dr. J. C. Kumarappa who propounded the theory of Sarvodaya. He took a very serious view of the Indo-American agreement in this connection. He was against the decision of Government of India to allow the Americans to dominate over us by giving us some financial aid. According to him this experiment would prove detrimental to the interests of our newly-born State. He went to the extent of saying that our Government could have constructed less community projects but should not have accepted the financial aid from America. Because this objection was raised by an honest and a conscientious worker it was essential that a reply be given to it. There is no other responsible man in the country as Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. We have the pride to have him as the Prime Minister of our Country. While giving a reply to the objection raised by Dr. Kumarappa Pandit Nehru made it clear in Lucknow that the foreign aid was only 15 or 20 per cent of the whole expenditure proposed to be incurred on these projects. Pandit Nehru also said that no change could be effected in the implementation of these schemes because of foreign aid. He further asserted that he would never like to remain a leader of the nation if he were to kneel down and cringe before foreign countries. Mr. Speaker, I think there can be no other proper words to express one's feelings. He also added that he would never tolerate any foreign power dominating over India even if it were to convert the country into a paradise. How admirable the spirit of our leader is !

Mr. Speaker, our country would derive double benefit from these Community Project Schemes. The first and the foremost advantage would be that the condition of the masses would be considerably improved and it would also go a long way to tone up the administrative machinery. Uptill to-day in all the schemes of education or co-operative societies that were launched by the Government, people did not show real enthusiasm or national team spirit to make them a success. Sir, I would just explain what the national spirit means.

Let me cite an instance to elucidate my point of view. In the University boat race competition, all the boats are manned by eleven rowers but which of them reaches the goal first ? Naturally, the boat whose rowers display a team spirit. So, Sir, team spirit and self-confidence are the needs of the hour. And after all what are these Community Projects for ? Their specific aim is to create the spirit of self-help and self-confidence among the people and to enable them to stand on their own feet. And we can reasonably

[Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht]
hope that the execution of their Projects will revolutionize the outlook of those who constitute the administrative machinery since there is hardly a Department of Government—Health, Education, Agriculture, Finance—which will not be hitched to the wagon. As all the Departments will have to do their bit, red-tapism and unnecessary formalities will be considerably eliminated and moreover so far as the execution of work in connection with these Projects is concerned, there will be absolutely no scope for corruption which flourishes when the work is got done through only one Department. So, it is a matter for gratification that there will be no water-tight compartment so far as this work is concerned. Sir, the day is not far off when our dream of a New Punjab will be realized to which the hon. Minister had referred while speaking at Rohtak sometime back in these words — 'In this new era, officers will cease to be Government servants, they will be social workers'. If this experiment in social service proves a success, I am sure the administration of this State will be revolutionized.

Sir, it is also a matter for gratification that the Planning Department has paid special attention to the development of agriculture which is our most important occupation. In America, the provision made in the budget for the development of agriculture is Rs. 78 *per capita*, but in our country which is very poor it is no more than Re. 1 *per copita*. Now I have to say a few words with regard to the Five-Year Plan. Bombay and Uttar Pradesh are the two most progressive States in India. Under the Five-Year Plan, in Uttar Pradesh, a sum of Rs. 21 Crores has been spent on the improvement of agriculture which forms 22 per cent of the total expenditure ; in Bomaby a sum of Rs 17.5 crores has been spent for this purpose, representing 12.5 per cent of the total expenditure while in our State a sum of only Rs. 2 crores has been spent for this purpose, representing 10 per cent of the total expenditure.

So far as cattle-rearing is concerned, Uttar Pradesh has spent 1.3 crores on it which represents 1.5 per cent of the total expenditure, Bombay has spent 1.6 crores on it which represents 1.4 per cent of the total expenditure. In our State, a sum of Rs. 22 lakhs has been spent on it, which represents 1.2 per cent of the total expenditure while on dairy-farming a sum of Rs. 6 crores has been spent in Bombay, in the Punjab nothing has been spent on it. On irrigation, Uttar Pradesh has, under the Five-Year Plan, spent a sum of Rs. 33 crores, which represents 34 per cent of the total expenditure ; in Bombay also a sum of Rs. 33 crores has been spent on irrigation and this is 24 per cent of the total expenditure; in Punjab, a sum of Rs. 3.5 crores has been spent on irrigation which represents 17 per cent of the total expenditure. Expenditure on Bhakra-Nangal Project is not included in it.

The well-known economist Dr. Mukerjee of Uttar Pradesh has rightly emphasised the need for developing small-scale industries in Northern India. The Uttar Pradesh Government has under the Five-Year Plan spent a sum of Rs. three crores on the development of cottage industries, which respresents three per cent of the total expenditure. Bombay has spent Rs. 1 crore for this purpose i. e., one per cent of the total exependiture. In the Punjab, a sum of Rs. ·48 crore has been spent on the development of cottage industries, which is 2.5 per cent of the total expenditure.

I think our Government should pay a little more attention to animal husbandry because we cannot do without bullock power for quite a long time. Without better and more nourishing food and without improving the breed of our cattle wealth will suffer a grievous loss.

Now, Sir, I would like to make a brief reference to the work that has so far been done on the Community Projects in our State. In this short period, a 10½ mile long road and a 2½ mile long drain have been constructed in Batala and 3,500 maunds of seed of good quality have been distributed among the cultivators there. Without dwelling on the work done at other centres, I just say a few words about Faridabad Project which has been allotted to our district by the hon. Chief Minister. Work on this Project actually started in November, 1952. Without any desire to praise the people of my district, I cannot help saying that they have left others behind in the work of Community development. They are constructing a 22-mile long road, on half of which the earth-work has been completed. I now recite a couplet and resume my seat.—

ऐ चिरागे राहे मनज़ल ऐ वतन के नौजवान
कुवते अज़मो अमल है तेरी सूरत सें अयां
आशनां है वक्त की हर इक नज़र से दिल तेरा
है यकीन मुझे को बहत रौशन है मुस्तकबिल तेरा
ਐ ਚਰਾਗ਼ੇ ਰਾਹੇ ਮਨਜ਼ਲ ਐ ਵਤਨ ਕੇ ਨੌਜਵਾਨ !
ਕੁਵਤੇ ਅਜ਼ਮੋ ਅਮਲ ਹੈ ਤੇਰੀ ਸੂਰਤ ਸੇ ਅਯਾਂ !!
ਆਸ਼ਨਾ ਹੈ ਵਕਤ ਕੀ ਹਰ ਇਕ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਸੇ ਦਿਲ ਤੇਰਾ !
ਹੈ ਯਕੀਨ ਮੁਝਕੋ ਬਹੁਤ ਰੌਸ਼ਨ ਹੈ ਮੁਸਤਕਬਿਲ ਤੇਰਾ !!

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Atwal (Nawanshahar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, Demand No. 44 relates to the scheme of Community Projects. To-day that it is under consideration , we have to see whether the money provided under this demand is really and justifiably needed or not. It is only by visiting the rural areas that we can understand the true state of affairs and realize the need for starting this scheme of community development. It is in fact a part and parcel of the Five-Year Plan and is a part of other schemes of development that are to be executed during this period of five years. This scheme aims at improving the economic condition of the people of India. I was happy to learn from the hon. Chief Minister that in every district of this State an Advisory Planning Committee will be set up to prepare a plan of development for each district keeping in view the economic conditions prevailing therein.

Sir, to-day we notice that the scheme of Community Projects has been launched in order to better the lot of the rural people. Accordingly six Community Projects have been started at various places in the State. These Projects aim at improving the plight of every person irrespective of his caste or creed and exploring ways and means to make his life comfortable. Under this scheme free and compulsory education will be imparted to the people, Vocational Training Centres will be established, irrigation facilities will be provided, waste land will be brought under the plough and means of communication will soon be improved. The primary object of his scheme is to undertake, first of all, the work of Consolidation of Holdings. Particular attention has been paid to other schemes such as disinfecting and cleaning of village drains and streets, removal of difficulties arising out of the non-availability of drinking water, Construction of play-grounds and opening of libraries and

[Sardar Gurbachan Singh Atwal]
clubs through which the public at large will be imparted education to be able to lead a happy and prosperous life. Besides, in order to meet the demands of ordinary necessities of life of the people, arrangements are afoot to establish small scale industries in all the six Community Projects. In addition to this the establishment of these industries will help in supplying the needs of the new Projects which may be set up hereafter.

Now, Sir, I would like to submit that the funds which have been provided for the execution of this plan are proportionately less than the volume of work which is required to be undertaken in this behalf. These funds are very meagre to execute an ambitious scheme of this nature. It is an admitted fact that a businessman would always like to invest the maximum amount in an undertaking which offers possibilities of profit to him. So I would urge upon the Government to finance this scheme liberally to obtain the desired results.

Besides, I would give another suggestion. It is this that for the successful completion of this scheme it is of paramount importance to establish a proper co-ordination between all the important departments of the Government. Since this scheme covers all the major fields of Government activity i. e., Agriculture, Co-operative, Industry, Medical, Health etc., it is necessary that for its speedy execution there should be a harmonius co-ordination between the officers of the various departments. It will have two-fold advantages. Firstly, it will eliminate unnecessary expenditure and secondly it will result in the early completion of the work. Besides, I am of the opinion that it will also go a long way to eradicate corruption. There is no denying the fact that people will cease indulging in such corrupt practices when they are educated and besides giving the poor a 'know how' of living prosperously, education will confer on the masses, hitherto extremely ignorant, a scientific outlook to view things in the right perspective. It is an admitted fact that corruption flourishes owing to the ignorance of the public at large. When they will be in a position to meet their necessities of life, it is but natural that they would not like to accept bribes from anybody. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Shri D. D. Puri (Jagadhri) (*Hindi*) : Sir, every citizen of India—man or woman—who has love for the country is almost enamoured of the Five-Year Plan. They think that this plan will usher in an era of prosperity in our country. I am of the opinion that it will not be wrong to style the modern age in the history of India as "the Jawahar Era". Our beloved leader, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had been taking keen interest in the development work even before his becoming the Prime Minister of India. Long before the implementation of this Plan, he had prepared a plan for the development of the under-developed regions of the country. We are very fortunate that to-day when we are going to build an India of our dreams, the reins of the chariot of our country are in the hands of our beloved leader—Pandit Jawahar Lal. He has prepared this Five-Year Plan for the uplift of the masses. Therefore, I think that it is in the fitness of things that every man and woman of the country should really be proud of this Five-Year Plan.

Sir, in to-day's discussion I would throw some light on that very aspect of the Five-Year Plan which is concerned with the Community Development Project. There is a history behind it. In January last year an agreement was reached between the United State Government and the Government of India according to which the Government of the United States of America promised

to give financial aid of the value of 86 lakhs dollars for the scheme of Community Projects. In rupees this amount aggregates to Rs. 43,35,00,000. There was one condition in this agreement, viz., that the United States Government would give this financial aid provided the Government of India would also contribute nearly an equal amount for the execution of this scheme. Accordingly on receiving this contribution of Rs. 43,35,00,000 from the United States Government a sum amounting to Rs. 34,38,00,000 was contributed by the Central Government for carrying out this plan of Community Projects.

The whole scheme is worked in this manner. Funds are first received at New Delhi from America. More funds are added to these and the whole amount is distributed among the different States in a particular proportion. The State Governments have also got to provide funds from their own revenues. When the money ultimately reaches the villages it can be spent by them on the condition that they make their contribution in the form of labour. This process resembles that of a river. At its source a river is nothing but a small stream but a number of streams pour their water into it and then it takes the form of a river. Similarly, when the agriculturists contribute their labour to these schemes they assume great importance. Some of my hon. Friends objected to our getting aid from America. Mr. Kumarappa also raised that objection and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru gave an apt reply to it. This objection has been answered on the floor of this House also. Another objection against our getting American aid was that the funds received from that country were ill-got and should therefore not be used for Community Development Schemes. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this was an important objection, but my friends who raised it should not forget that in 1942 their own 'fatherland' obtained aid from America. In 1939 their 'fatherland' tried to obtain help from Germany where Hitler was in power. What was proper in the case of Russia is being described as improper in our case. Whatever Russia does and in whatever way it does are right but everything that our Government does and the manner in which it does them are described as improper by these gentlemen. These things are said in order to mislead the masses.

In the modern age no country can afford to isolate itself from other countries and say that it would neither give nor accept any help from them Such an attitude is a thing of the past. Formerly, America also used to say that it preferred to be an isolationalist but such a thing is not possible in 1952. There is nothing undesirable in our obtaining aid from America for our Community Projects. Russia fought a war against Germany and we want to fight poverty and the low standard of living. Why should we not accept aid which is given in a manner which is in keeping with our dignity and self-respect ? Such objections are raised only to mislead the people. Labour and voluntary help constitute an integral part of the Community Project Scheme. Nothing is done for those who do not help themselves by giving voluntary help. Roads will be constructed at only those places where the villagers themselves prepare the katcha tracks.

Irrigation schemes are an important part of these projects but these will be undertaken at those places only where the villagers who are to benefit from them contribute half the amount. The remaining half is given to them in the form of loans. Similarly, the element of self-help must be there before the work of constructing pucca drains can be undertaken. This is a big experiment in self-help which is very essential for the service of a community or a country. All the phases of the economic life of the people have been kept in view while preparing Community Project Programme. The construction of drains, providing means of irrigation, opening of schools and hospitals and supplying of all the needs of the people have been provided for in this scheme.

[Shri D. D. Puri]

As I notice that this work is being done with great enthusiasm, I want to offer one or two suggestions so that it may become more attractive and be accomplished successfully. The first thing towards which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is the existence of what is called red-tapism. Work on this scheme commenced last year but the conditions on which loans are to be advanced had not been finalised till last week. An Advisory Committee consisting of 70 or 80 members has been constituted for this purpose. The Members of Parliament, Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council, District Boards, Municipal Committees and the Bharat Sewak Samaj are the members of that Committee. The membership of that committee is so large that it cannot meet more than once in two or three months. I would suggest to the Government to associate some non-officials with the day-to-day administration so that the work of these projects may be done more expeditiously.

Then, Sir, I beg to submit that tube-wells are to be set up at all the places covered by these Community Projects. Means of irrigation are not available everywhere. If possible, the Government should make electricity available at all places so that diesel oil engines may not have to be used. Electricity would become available in two or three years and if oil engines are set up now it will mean waste of money and unnecessary inconvenience to the agriculturists.

The whole machinery is moving so slowly that up to now no arrangement for coal has been made in the Project areas. Roads have to be constructed and coal will be needed for metalling them. The Punjab Government is no doubt making efforts in this connection but it should tell the Government of India once again that the want of coal will cause great hardship. Harvesting season will begin after some time and the agriculturists will have no time to prepare katcha tracks. It will mean postponement of the whole work till October or November. For this reason, arrangements for the supply of coal should be given top priority.

[*Mr. Deputy Speaker occupies the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had quoted the facts and figures relating to India. American Government has made a provision of 43 crores of rupees in this behalf and the Government of India has earmarked 34 crores of rupees for this purpose. If we compare the amount which is to be spent in our State we will find that the Government of India has to contribute Rs. 28 lakhs and the Punjab Government has made a provision of Rs. 51 lakhs. Besides this, the Government of India has decided to advance a loan of Rs. 1,41 lakhs to our Government for the development of community project areas. Thus it will be seen that we will have in all Rs. 3,20 lakhs. to spend on this scheme. I think it would not be possible to accomplish this stupendous task with this amount unless we enlist the co-operation of the public. This scheme can only be successfully implemented if we can create enthusiasm in the masses. The population of India is equal to one-sixth of the population of the whole world. If we succeed in creating enthusiasm in the people then with our huge manpower we can shake the whole world. The Government should treat the work of community project on a war footing. I hope that my hon. Friends to whatever political party they may belong would work with the same spirit and enthusiasm as they showed at the time of general elections, in order to make this scheme a success.

Chaudhri Sarup Singh (Narnaund) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I think that no member of this House should have any objection to the passing of this demand of Rs. 85 lakhs which is at present before the House. It would have given us

great pleasure if our popular minister—Sardar Partap Singh—had put up a demand of Rs. 85 crores instead of Rs. 85 lakhs before the House. Sir, this scheme aims at improving the standard of living of India's millions and provides an opportunity to the people in the countryside to improve their lot mainly by their own efforts. After the attainment of independence the people of backward ilaqas, in which unfortunately my district is also included, had hoped that after the elections their representatives will carry their services to the Assembly and zealously safeguard their interests. In the united Punjab the Unionist Ministry was in power but it did nothing except awarding jagirs and squares of land to benefit their own kith and kin and did not take any step to ameliorate the lot the people of the backward areas. Now I must congratulate the Government for taking steps to abolish jagirs and thereby removing the injustice which was done to the poor people. Whereas our Government has prepared an excellent Budget it has also taken a commendable step of launching a scheme of six community projects in addition to the six community projects which have already been allotted to various tehsils. In this connection I cannot help saying that the Government has not allotted any community project to Hissar District which is the most backward district of the Punjab. Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Development to the fact that the scheme of community projects should have been first enforced in the backward districts where there are no roads or water to drink. Before this, the hon. Minister has declared several times that the Government is anxious to raise the standard of living of the village people and to better the lot of the poor. In view of this, I had thought that my district will be benefited by this scheme and thus the hopes of the people, who had been continuously fed on the promises of better times to come will be realised. But my sorrow knew no bounds when I learnt that the community project scheme was not going to be launched in our district in spite of the fact that this district is the largest of all the districts. In this district the whole area of Tehsil Hansi is irrigated by canals and the hon. Minister has always been saying that while allotting community projects preference will be given to those *ilaqas* where consolidation is going on and which are irrigated by canals. In spite of the fact that this tehsil fulfilled all the conditions it has been entirely ignored.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should confine his remarks to the demand which is under discussion.

Minister for Irrigation : This tehsil will get water from Bhakra Dam.

Chaudhri Sarup Singh : Besides this, it was stated on behalf of the Government that the community projects scheme will be enforced in those tehsils which are backward. In this connection I may draw the attention of the hon. Minister to Tehsil Bhiwani. This tehsil is the most backward of all the tehsils. Here the people have to face great difficulty in bringing drinking water from long distances on camels. In the end, without taking much time of the House, I would, Sir, through you, request the hon. Minister that he must keep Hissar District in view and consider it for starting a community project in Tehsil Hansi.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Jullundur City, South-East) (*Hindi*): Sir, our revered leader, the late-lamented Mahatma Gandhi had often expressed the opinion that real freedom would not dawn in this country so long as the rural population remained steeped in poverty, ignorance and squalor. He used to say that he was not satisfied with progress visible in the towns because according to him real India was to be found in villages.

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

If there is any action or activity or achievement of the Government which cannot be made the target of attack by any sensible person, it is the work done on the several Community Projects that have been started in our State. Nobody can stint in expressing his appreciation of this work. Perhaps this is the reason that the hon. Friends constituting the Opposition have thought it fit to absent themselves by staging a walk-out. They knew it well that they would not be able to inveigh against the Congress Government on this occasion.

The scheme of Community Projects has not been in operation for long but it has yielded remarkable results. All that was done from July to October 1952, was work of a preliminary nature. The foundation of this work was really laid on October 2, on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. To-day we feel very much gratified when we look at the report of the progress of the work and the results it has yielded. One cannot help congratulating the Government after seeing the enthusiasm that the execution of this scheme has engendered in the rural masses within a short period of time.

The programme envisages the starting of as many as 55 Community Projects in the whole country, aiming at the development of 16,500 villages with a view to benefit 12 million people. In our State, under this scheme, as many as 1,500 villages are being developed, which cover a culturable area of 7,50,000 acres. 2,500 square miles of land is being reclaimed and made fit for cultivation. Besides the utilization of waste lands, the scheme aims at improving every aspect of rural life—education, health, sanitation, agriculture and housing. The number of people who are being benefited is of the order of ten lakhs.

Now, Sir, I may briefly refer to the work that has so far been done for the information of the hon. Members of this House, and the time in which it has been done. In Batala, the people have constructed by their own efforts a six-mile long drain in 21 days. You must have read about this achievement in the papers. A sum of Rs. 40 thousand was raised by them by voluntary contributions for this purpose. The people have also contributed a sum of Rs 10 thousand for earthwork. Where are those brothers to-day who say that the people have lost their faith in the Congress and have ceased to follow it ? Had they been present, I would have dispelled their doubts about the trust and confidence that the people still repose in the Congress. It is a fact that ruralites are simple, unsuspecting folk, prone to be misled and excited very easily but the manner in which the work in connection with the Community Projects is proceeding is a clear proof of the fact that they are prepared to extend their fullest co-operation to the Government. At every place where such work is in hand, remarkable achievement has been made. The progress in education that has been made in Jagadhri within a very short period of time is really commendable. Schools have been opened in twenty villages and these are being run by the people themselves, 14 schools are being managed by the Panchayats ; a sum of Rs. 13 thousand has been collected by the people for the construction of buildings for these schools, out of which five have been completed and work is in progress on eight more . All these schools have been recognized by the Education Department.

A Community Centre has been opened in Nawanshahr also. It was inaugurated by the Governor. The Notified Area Committee of that place has contributed a sum of Rs. 20 thousand to the funds of the Centre, which will be utilized for the benefit of ruralites as well as urbanites. The newspapers have also been publishing reports about the satisfactory manner in which work

of Community development is being carried on in Nawanshahr. It is also a matter for gratification that the Municipal Committee of Banga has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 10 thousand for opening an X-Ray Department in the hospital there. My brothers can themselves imagine the benefits that will accrue to the people of rural areas by the opening of such a department in a hospital at a place like Banga. In this way, Sir, much good work has been done at the various Community Centres and in what a short period of time ! Many bridges and drains have been constructed, pits have been dug for the preservation of manure and a lot of progress made in the sphere of education. I feel like congratulating the hon. Minister on the devotion with which he has done his work.

Now, Sir, I want to offer a few constructive suggestions to the Government which will if adopted give a fillip to the work and make the projects yield better results. It is a truism to say that no work can be executed properly if it is not given adequate publicity. I am constrained to remark that our Publicity Department is not doing its bit so far as these Community Projects are concerned or at least not playing its part as well as it should. Barring Tehsil Sonepat in which the work done through the Community Projects is being publicized and necessary instructions given to the people in 36 villages by Bhajan Mandalis, no publicity work worth the name is being done at any other place. It is essential that this work should be done in every village which is included in the scheme. Without this, there can be no popular enthusiasm.

There is another important matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. I have seen that workers employed on work at various Community Projects hail from other districts. I think this is likely to hinder the progress of the work. If the workers are recruited from the adjoining villages or are at least those persons who belong to the same district in which the work is being carried on, they will be able to move about freely among the people and educate them properly by going from house to house and by contacting even their women-folk. If persons belonging to Ambala Division are engaged at a Community Project allotted to a place in Jullundur Division, they will surely have some difficulty in making themselves heard or understood.

Now I want to say something very important to the hon. Minister-in-charge in regard to the allocation of money for various purposes. I find that while for the development of Communication a sum of Rs. 31,51,370 has been provided in the Budget relating to the Community Projects, a comparatively much less amount, viz., Rs. 8,32,600 has been earmarked for education. Provision made for imparting social education is of the order of Rs. 4,90,400 which is quite inadequate, keeping in view the importance of social education for arousing enthusiasm among the people. Only day before yesterday I was going through the Budget speech delivered by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He had stated that at a place in Benaras District, a big bund was being constructed by about one thousand prisoners. Those prisoners are paid according to the volume of work they put in. But the people are made no payment. He writes in his report that at places where this experiment of the Community Project is being carried out, the people work with interest and enthusiasm. If this enthusiasm continues rising in this manner, these experiments can be extended to other places also. I, therefore, request the hon. Chief Minister that, if he were to increase the scope of social education under these Projects, it will be good. I believe that if these experiments of the Community Projects are made successful and a maximum number of them are carried out in every district of the Punjab, the villages can be developed very soon. I would like to tell you that, without doubts we have been free since 1947. But this freedom will not have any real meaning if these Community Projects are not a success.

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

Then, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to another thing. I have studied thoroughly the scheme of Community Projects. I expected that it would be very good project. But I find that the number of women among the workers who have been appointed for the implementation of the Community Projects is very small. After all these workers have to work in villages and they will not be called upon to work as Members or Ministers in the Assembly. Then why is it that the sisters have been given less opportunity for this social work ? I have figures with me which show that ou of four Chief Organisers, there are three men and only one woman. Out of 26 Social Education Organisers, there are 16 men and ten women. But among the 150 Village Level Workers, not a single woman has been appointed. As I have said, they have not to become Ministers and as such the Government's power will not suffer a set back in any way by their appointment. They have only to serve in Villages. (*Cheers*). In the mater of service, sisters are in no way inferior to their brethren. In this respect, the Government should not have made any distinction. When the advertisement for these posts was published, it should have been written that women could also apply for them. After all these posts carried a salary of only fifty or sixty rupees and no squares of land were to be distributed. I believe that the Community Projects can be made a success only if co operation of men and women is forthcoming. I hope that the hon. Minister will pay attention to this suggestion of mine.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Rohtak City) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have carefully gone through this Budget of Community Projects. In it has been laid the basic plan of the future shape of this State, in a way. I believe that the Central Government as also our Punjab Government like other State Governments are on trial. All these Community Projects are well-conceived and are in a way a model of all other beneficent schemes. This is an experiment which if carried on right lines and made successful, would guarantee the economic independence of our country along with its political independence which it acheived some time ago. Therefore, the basic aspects of these Projects should not be lost sight of.

Sir, everybody admits that the economy of this State is an unbalanced one. Eighty five per cent of the population of this State depends on agriculture. This is quite uneconomic, unbalanced and unwise. If this economy continues to govern this country, its future is bound to be dark. In view of these difficulties and the coming dangers, therefore, the Planning Commission has advised that our aim should be that not more than fifty per cent of our population should depend upon agriculture for its livelihood. The remaining fifty per cent of the population should find out some other means of livelihood. You must be aware that in other countries, the urban population is on the increase ; but here rural puopulation is on the increase. I would, therefore, submit that we should provide some gainful employment to the people after weaning them from agriculture, and persuade them to take to the cottage industries. As this is an age of industrialisation, we have, therefore, to urge the people to run the small-scale industries on a competitive basis, in order to make them successful. This work is as difficult as it is important. If, therefore, we are able to set up industries in the rural areas through these Community Projects and are thus able to save the rural people from the rising danger of unemployment, it will be a right step and a matter for congratulations. But when I scrutinize this Budget of Rs 85 lakhs which has been earmarked foirs the Community Projects, I find a very important item missing here. This item is most important for the purpose of solving the problem of unemployment.

No provision has been made for this item. This item is in regard to the establishment of cottage industries which is conspicuous by its omission in the Budget. In other words, the play of hamlet is being staged but without the Prince of Denmark. I read the report pertaining to this matter and enquired from the gentleman concerned the cause of this serious omission. My hon. Friend representing Jagadhri said a good many things about industrialization in his speech, but he forgot as to how the whole thing would be carried out without the setting up of cottage industries in villages. Provision has, no doubt, been made for good ventilators, beautiful drains, sanitation and for digging of pits for the storage of manure. But I say that if the stomach remains empty, all these things are of no significance. The primary thing is the setting up of industries in the State whereby people can find employment. Now I have begun to realize as to why the item regarding the setting up of cottage industries has been omitted. I know that the Punjab Government cannot find a better Minister for Development than the present Minister and this is a matter for deep gratification and satisfaction for us. (*Cheers*). But I cannot help saying one thing and that is this that he lacks industrial bias. If we go a little further, we find that the Development Commissioner is an able I. C. S. gentleman. But he has never had industrial bias throughout his life. Then, after these gentlemen, we have some hope from the Director of Industries that he would draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the desirability of setting up industries and for the inclusion of an item in this regard in the budget of the Community Projects. I know that he is an able P. C. S. officer. He must be quite good at the drafting of letters and at detecting grammatical mistakes in the notes written in English and in the office rountine. But so far as his industrial bias is concerned, it is nil.

Mr. Speaker, it is correct that the Deputy Directors of Industries can do good work in the offices but my contention is that they have no industrial bias in their minds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member has taken too much time.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir. I am not irrelevant.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : There is no question of irrelevancy, the question is of time.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shall just say a few things and wind up. I was submitting that such people have been appointed who know nothing of industries. So many junior clerks are made Officers on Special Duty. It is possible that a person may be a good steno but that does not mean that he should prove an efficient District Officer as well. What is required is to find out whether a person has a bias for the work which he is called upon to do. We should not overlook the fact that it is not possible to have a provision of eighty lakhs every year. We must employ such persons who have an industrial bias and it is only then that we can hope for industrial development in the State.

The second thing is this that our system badly suffers from red-tapism. I do admit that our Development Minister is a courageous, enterprising and strong man but he cannot help the red-tape. We should try our level best to get rid of this red-tape. It is no matter if the commencement of some work is delayed by a few months but then we must employ efficient hands and should have complete faith in them. They should be given full powers. If the Government works on these lines there would be every reason to hope that the State will be on the road to development and progress.

[Shri Dev Raj S thi]

My third submission is about the co-ordination of work. At present in villages and towns we come across something like seventeen or eighteen kinds of Inspectors. Except harassing people, they do no good work. These Inspectors are expected to be working in connection with Schools, Panchayats, Co-operative Societies, Sanitation, Controls, etc., etc. I say why can't one Inspector be appointed for all these things ? He should, of course, be given a smaller area. I think such an experiment if tried in connection with the Community Projects will prove very useful as it is sure to result in co-ordination of work. If we really want to rebuild our villages we should have less of staff but the employees must be very efficient and should be given full powers. I have no doubt that one Inspector can easily attend to the work of Schools, Panchayats and the Co-operative Societies. I would request the Minister concerned to give due consideration to this suggestion.

In the end, I must say a word of praise for the Community Projects. Like all other good schemes, these projects also call for a regular spirit and we should try to create it, otherwise they will meet the fate of the Grow-More-Food Campaign. The example of Russia is before us. There the schemes succeeded because the spirit of the people was working behind them.

Shri Ram Parkash (Molana) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, the Community Projects are under discussion and I also wish to say something of the places where this scheme is being put through. I mean to say something about Jagadhri. The Community Project Development Scheme is meant for the development of the backward areas but so far as the Jagadhri Community Project is concerned, the whole work is being done in the villages near the towns of Jagadhri and Abdullapur and the whole money is being spent on those areas. This means that the Community Projects are being put through for the development of the already developed places and that nothing is being done for the backward areas. Such a state of affairs cannot create satisfaction in the minds of the people of the Punjab. The hon. Members from Ambala have pointed out that my district is not to get any supply of water from Bhakra Canal. We thought we might be deriving some benefit from the Community Project. But such a thing could only happen if the scheme were properly worked. I may inform the House that Chhachhroli and the neighbouring areas of Kalesar are backward areas. The people of these areas are rapidly becoming victims of poverty. They have no clothes to wear and no food to eat. Shri Kairon was good enough to pay a visit to those places and he admitted that he had never come across a more backward area in the whole of the Punjab. It is really a pity that the Tahsildar and other officers of the Community Project dance to the tunes of the Congress M.L.A.'s. All roads, schools and hospitals are being built according to their wishes. A road has been constructed to provide an easy approach from the bungalow of an M.L.A. to his farm. I had pointed out to the Advisory Committee that something should be done for the backward areas like Chhachhroli. These areas can prosper with the construction of roads, schools and hospitals and none of these three things can be found there at Chhachhroli. Lakhs of people there are starving. No doubt, the ministers hold out promises for banishing poverty and starvation and for providing employment to the unemployed but in fact just the opposite is being done. The hon. Members of the House do not voice the grievances of the ruralites. They do not properly describe the unemployment that prevails in the Punjab. I think it is our duty to look to the development of the backward areas. At present we find that the Community officers are receiving their salaries all right from the Government but are rendering no useful service.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City North-West) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, it is gratifying to know that under the Five-Year Plan preparations are being made by the Development Minister to launch a successful campaign to banish poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease from the State. For the last three years efforts have been made to drive out disease, ignorance and hunger from as many as 16,145 villages which have a population of 11,70,000 covering 1,659 square miles of land. Ordinarily, only 1/10 th of the whole population of the Punjab State would be benefited from these schemes but as a matter of fact it is an experiment which is being made on account of the increase in the revenues of the State. I am sure that we would not only make this experiment successful but we would also enhance the prestige of our State by expelling hunger and unemployment from the country in the same way as we had victoriously carried out our political struggle against the British Government.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Ministers to some points in regard to the Budget of 85 lakhs which is placed before the House. When the Five-Year Plan was prepared Government had decided not to spend more than 6 per cent of the whole funds on the establishment. I would not like to go into details but if we glance at the present Budget it would be quite clear that far more than 6 per cent of the funds is being spent on the establishment, viz. the employment of drivers, expenditure on district headquarters and tehsil headquarters. This is a great mistake and if it is not rectified at this stage it would have very serious results.

Then, Sir, the next matter that I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Ministers is that the problem of food is of outstanding importance which is to be solved under the Five-Year Plan. In this connection, I would state that our country imports foodgrains worth crores of rupees every year which puts a heavy strain on our finances. Only last year foodgrains worth 100 crores of rupees were imported. Government wants to overcome this difficulty within a period of three years. But it would not be possible to do so merely by making empty speeches. Sir, as has been repeatedly emphasised in the Community Projects Scheme the solution of this problem would be our main objective. We would do our best to increase the per acre yield of foodgrains. In this regard I would submit that in other countries of the world per acre produce of rice is three times that in our country. If I quote facts and figures in this connection you would come to know the real position of our country in this connection. In America the average rice yield is 1,468 lbs. per acre, in Canada it is 2,180 lbs. per acre and in Italy it is 2,000 lbs. whereas in India the average rice yield is only 700 lbs. per acre. Similar is the case with wheat. It is not all. In a civilized country like America 18 per cent of the population depends upon agriculture and despite this fact the people of that country roll in riches, whereas according to the census of 1951, 81 lakh people out of 126 lakhs depend upon agriculture in our State and yet the holdings are very small and the yield is very low. I am at a loss to know how the conditions will improve. I would like to suggest that on the lines of the Community Projects Scheme and the Grow-More-Food Campaign, Village Production Councils should be established whose duty it should be to find out suitable soils for the growth of particular crops in villages. These Councils should make various experiments in this direction and make efforts to bring about progressive increase in the yield of different crops every year. These Councils should work on the lines of the Central Advisory Boards set up under the Grow-More-Food Scheme and should leave no stone unturned to increase production on scientific lines. I think if the Government cares to act on the recommendations of the Central Advisory Board, the food production can be raised from 10 to 15 per cent.

[Shri Ram Kishan]

Sir, I would make a few more observations and finish my speech. Firstly, I would submit that the Community Project Scheme is not being properly worked. In Nawanshahr Tehsil some basic schools have been opened under the Community Project Scheme but the teachers have not been paid their salaries for the last 4 or 5 months. These schools have been opened by private efforts but the Government has not fulfilled its promise of contributing half of the total expenditure. What I mean to drive at is that even the fundamental principles of the scheme are not being adhered to. Secondly, I would submit that under these schemes we have to infuse consciousness, intellectual faculties, inspiration and enthusiasm in the minds of the people and to achieve this end I would suggest to the Government to do propaganda through the Press, Radio and by distributing small leaflets and pamphlets. Thirdly, I would like to suggest that after every fortnight a Community Project day should be observed at the places where these projects are being worked. In this connection, I would submit that the National Week is going to be observed throughout India from 6th April to 13th April. Mahatma Gandhi had reserved this National Week for constructive work, I would, therefore, suggest that this week may be called the Community Project Week so that all the officials from the Patwaris right up to the highest officer may devote their special attention to this work.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) (*Hindi*) : Sir, Community development is not anything new to India. The idea of development on communal lines originated in the most ancient period of our history. These Community Projects that have been taken in hand remind us of the glorious part of our country, when people worked in and for the communities with which their fortunes were linked and every work was done on a corporate and communal basis. It is our good fortune that this institution is being revived in the form of Community Projects after a very long time. In the present century, work along the lines of these project was started in Soviet Russia where it met with great success especially because this scheme of community development was enforced there in all its aspects all at once and not in parts and blocks as it is being implemented here. In Russia owing to the manner in which it was executed, in a very short time this scheme engendered considerable zest and enthusiasm among the people. Voluntary labour and Government money combined to make this scheme a great success in Russia. By dividing the work into blocks and parts, we are not doing any thing conducive to the creation of a similar enthusiasm among our people. We have not been able to create the necessary competitive spirit, as between one tehsil and another, one district and another, or between one State and another. In spite of his best efforts, the hon. Minister for Development has not been able to give an impetus to the work of community development. However, I congratulate the hon. Minister on the zeal and diligence he has displayed in the discharge of his duties and at the same time offer a few suggestions to him which if adopted will ensure the success of the Community Projects.

Firstly, I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the execution of the Five-Year Plan in our State is estimated to cost Rs. 29,53 lakhs, out of which a sum of about Rs. 8 crores has already been spent in the course of the first two years and a sum of Rs. 8,12 lakhs has been provided in the next year's Budget for this purpose. This means that a sum of Rs. 17 crores will have been spent at the end of the first three years and still the hon. Finance Minister has stated in his Budget speech that the expenditure incurred by the Government in connection with the execution of this scheme

is proportionately sound keeping in view the time that has elapsed. I think this is not correct. This expenditure is definitely excessive ; it appears that a very large portion of the money has been spent on preliminary and preparatory work in the initial stage. I wonder how it will be possible to execute the scheme with the remainder— a scheme which is supposed to convert our country into a paradise !

Secondly, our national self-sufficiency depends upon the success of this scheme. In this connection, we have to bear in mind two or three considerations. First, we have to see how much of the total Budget of our State is being spent on the development of industries. In the Budget under discussion, a sum of Rs. 33,37,000 has been provided for industires and a sum of Rs. 51,17,000 for the development of agriculture. Keeping in view the fact that the progress of our State depends upon these, I think that adequate sums of money have not been provided for these purposes. I am not oblivious of the fact that some more money has been provided separately for the purposes under the Five-Year Plan but I think even with the help of that there cannot be sufficient development.

Then, Sir, the Panchayats that are going to be established should have enough money at their disposal over and above that necessary to meet the initial expenses since they have to perform such important functions as the imparting of education to the ruralites and do other rural uplift work. Receipts from the funds allocated to them under the Gram Panchayat Act will be meagre—almost insignificant. This is, of course, true that Panchayats are the proper medium for rural uplift work.

Along with the development of industries in the rural areas and banking facilities, marketing facilitites are also very necessary. To provide these facilities, good roads and means of transport are an essential prerequisite. So, I would urge the necessity of constructing roads and establishing co-operative banks as early as possible.

At this stage Mr. Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair and Mr. Speaker occupied it.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh (Adampur) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, it is a matter for gratification that to-day we are discussing that portion of the Budget which provides money for rural uplift. I am very hopeful of this scheme of Community Projects resulting in an all-round rural development and improvement in the conditions of health, education, agriculture, roads, etc., in the rural areas. Had my hon. sister Shrimati Sita Devi fought an election in a rural constituency, she would have realised the paramount need for the construction of roads in rural areas and then she would not have called in question the reasonableness of providing Rs. 29 lakhs for this purpose.

Sir, my submission is that our Government is anxious not merely to construct roads but also to open more schools and health centres and develop industries with a view to enable the rural people to earn a decent livelihood. Sir, if you look towards the rural areas, you will find that the only occupation on which people can fall back is agriculture. A majority of the rural population consists of those people who cultivate the land of the land-owners. As a result of the Tenancy Act these landlords ousted the poor and sturdy peasants from their lands. In the circumstances, Sir, I would submit to

[Sardar Gurbanta Singh]
the minister-in-charge that a majority of these people are sitting idle. They have got no work to earn their livelihood. Besides, our Harijan brethren are engaged in three industries, namely, tanning, weaving and shoe-making—which provide them with the means of earning their livelihood. The circumstances obtaining at present clearly go to show that all these three industries have altogether been ruined. In view of the large-scale consumption of crome leather, the demand for country-made leather has considerably decreased. Prior to the partition of India, a wide spread publicity was given to 'Khadi' but owing to the increased demand of mill-made cloth nobody, excepting a few high-ranking congressmen, liked to wear 'Khadi'. With the ruination of these three indutstries, I am to tell you, Sir, that as many as eighteen lakh Harijans have been thrown out of employment. I, therefore, feel that whereas we are determined to better the lot of the rural people, it is necessary that we should develop industries in villages. Of course, provision amounting to Rs. 1,50,000 has been made for this purpose to be spent at Jagadhri, Sonepat, Batala and Nawanshahr, but I think it is a very meagre sum. The fact of the matter is that although some steps have been taken by the Government to develop such industries at Batala and Nawanshahr but nothing has been done to promote the development of such industries at Jagadhri and Sonepat.

Besides, Sir, it has been remarked from the Opposition Benches and the Government is also aware of the fact that leather industry in the Hariana Prant has almost been ruined. The main reason for this failure is that during the last general elections all the Harijans inhabiting this area voted for the Congress against the wishes of their landlords. No zamindar allows any Harijan to sell leather—in a way they have gone to the extent of doing a social boycott against them. The dead body of animal is buried but not handed over to the Harijans for obtaining leather. No steps have been taken under the Community Project Scheme to give an impetus to this industry. Of course, a provision of Rs 66,000 has been made for leather work in the Nawanshahr Community Project but I think that it is a very small sum. More funds should be released to carry on this work on a large scale. Therefore, in the end, I would urge upon the Government—in case it is anxious to better the lot of the rural population and to improve the plight of Harijans—the necessity of paying greater attention towards the development of cottage industries so that the unemployed people may be able to increase production in the State.

Mr. Speaker : Before the discussion proceeds, I would like to inform the House that the hon. Minister will make his speech at 5.00 p.m. Now it is quarter to five. Besides, I have got a list containing the names of a number of hon. Members who have yet to speak. I would, therefore, call upon Members myself to speak.

Shri Khushi Ram (Amb) (*Hindi*) : Sir, all the resources of the State have been reserved for the development of the rural areas under the Five-Year Plan. Schools, Colleges and Hospitals will be constructed on the common lands in villages which, besides giving other benefits, will put an end to the age old disputes arising out of common lands in villages. Apart from this, large cultivable areas lying uncultivated in villages will be brought under irrigation.

Mr. Speaker: Certain parties whose object it is to indulge in criticism against the Government are concocting many stories against this scheme. Some observe that foreign aid has been accepted for carrying out this scheme of Community Projects, while others say that foreign Governments have their own axes to grind in giving such aid to India. But through you, Sir, I

would like to remark that the party which has got this totering house in legacy from the British, is very anxious to strengthen its walls so that the people desirous of living in it may have no fear in entering through its gates. But if in spite of such realities, the people do not exercise any restraint in indulging in such criticism they will only create chaos and lawlessness in the country. I can only say that their attitude will only hinder the progress of the country.

Sardar Khem Singh (Amritsar) (*Punjabi*) : It is a matter for great pleasure, Sir, that Community Projects are under the charge of our lion hearted Minister for Development. I hope—not only I but the entire masses of the State and more particularly the Scheduled Caste people—that the Minister for Development will strain his every nerve for the accomplishment of the task which has been undertaken under the Community Project scheme. It pains me to find that Punjabis were reduced to straitened circumstances after the partition. Why? The main reason was that the people crossed over to this side of the border after having been up-rooted and after having suffered many clamities and sufferings. I admit that our Government has endeavoured to better the lot of the ruralites by allotting Community Projects in certain areas. There is no denying the fact that the Government are doing their utmost to provide various amenities such as hospitals, schools and roads to the people living in the rural areas. I agree that they have also seen the miserable plight of the people living in the countryside. Moreover, I am pleased that our Minister for Development also hails from the countryside and that he realises the difficulties and hardships confronting the ruralites. But despite all these things I can say that he is not giving as much attention to improve the lot of the villagers as he should do. Therefore, I would like to tell the hon. Ministers that the plight of the villagers and particularly that of the Harijans is very miserable. They do not have any educational facilities. They are ill-clad and ill-fed. I admit that there was a time when the Punjab enjoyed the reputation of being called the granary of India and it used to meet the demands of the other States. But to-day owing to the shortage of foodgrains, the people are faced with many hardships. Of course, I myself subscribe to the view that the implementation of this scheme will result in augmenting the food production of the State and will banish hunger from our land. I think that the hon. Minister is trying his best to make the Community Project Scheme a success and I congratulate him for it. However, I beg to submit that the members of the Scheduled Castes are very backward and their interests should not be ignored while doing this work. They have not been given full representation in these schemes and I shall request the hon. Minister to give them their proper share so thatth eir conditions may improve.

Shri Lajpat Rai (Hansi) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I understand the words 'Community Project' to imply the same thing as the word 'Sarvodya Project' means 'Uday'. In my opinion the Community Projects are not new to this country. Such institutions existed in the past also. Before his death, Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, placed such a scheme before the country and for putting that into effect he established 'Sarvodhya Samaj'. When the Community Project Scheme was started in the country, the work to be done under it in this State was entrusted to the Minister who could do it in the best and the most successful manner. At the same time I wish to make a few suggestions and hope that the hon. Minister will consider them. The sum of Rs. 85 lakhs which is proposed to be spent under this scheme would not yield the best results if it is spent on constructing drains, roads and

[Shri Lajpat Rai]
ventilators. In this connection, I am reminded of the time when the Co-operative Societies Scheme was statred in the Punjab. The agriculturists took loans from the Co-operative Banks but instead of using the money for the purchase of bullocks or seeds they spent it on marriages or houses. In order to make the best use of these eighty-five lakhs of rupees, small cottage industries should be started with it and the people should be taught to work on a co-operative basis so that their produce may be exported without any difficulty and they may get the articles required by them direct from the factories. In my opinion the condition of the people can be improved in this way only. Their condition will not improve much if this amount is spent in the manner in which it is proposed to be spent.

I beg to submit, Sir, that no Community centre is proposed to be started in district Hissar. It is probably due to the fact that Bhakra Canal will irrigate that district. In my opinion there should be a Community Centre in that district also.If the Government cannot provide funds for that pourpose we shall collect the necessary amount. The hon. Minister should come to that district and start a centre there.

Shri Babu Dayal (Sohna) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, the idea of Community Projects first occurred to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and an Indo-American pact was signed to give a practical shape to the scheme. The American ambassador in India, Mr. Chester Bowles wrote a book entitled 'New India'. In that book he stated that assistance should be given for the development of not only India but the whole of Asia, because the absence of proper development would lead to frustration among the masses in these poor countries. Such conditions might result in engulfing all the Asian countries in communism. He has further stated that there was more frustration among the educated and it was essential that they should get some employment. It was to achieve that end that the Community Project Scheme was introduced. This work is being done to improve the economic condition of the country. The wealth of a country consists not in its revenues but in the labour available there. If that labour is utilized in a proper manner according to a set plan, poverty from the country can be completely banished

Shri Jagdish Chandar (Shahabad) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views but the time at my disposal is so short that I shall be able to refer to a few important points only. First of all I beg to submit that no principle appears to have been followed at the time of starting the Community Projects in this State. I mean that no *criteria* was laid down for determining the tehsils and districts in which this scheme should be worked first. It appears that the Government decided to start Community Centres at those places where some people advised them to start the same. Consolidation work is going on at present in almost every tehsil and district of the State. It would have been better if these Centres had been first opened either in those places where consolidation work was being done or in those which were comparatively backward This would have enabled the consolidation work to be completed at places where Community Centres were started. The staff engaged on consolidation work could do this work and additional staff would not have been required. Small paths have to be constructed in villages where consolidation of holdings is being done. The same paths can be made *pucca* after putting earth on them. In this manner the work of constructing roads can be done better at those places where consolidation work is being done.

Similarly I think that in the areas where the community projects have been started the management of the schools is being done by the Education Department. I think that the schools in these tehsils can develop with their own efforts. The Government should, therefore, enforce the scheme of community projects in tehsils which are very backward and where the work of consolidation is in progress.

Besides this, the Government is spending money on adult education scheme. In this connection the Government has gained experience at the places where this scheme is in force. I cannot say about the Punjab but so far as Karnal district is concerned, this scheme has not been successful. The Government has made a provision of Rs 45,900 for adult education at Sonepat, Nawanshahr, Nilokheri and Faridabad. Experience has shown that the progress of adult education centres has not been heartening because men of advanced age do not pay attention to studies. I am, therefore, of the view that instead of spending this money on adult education the Government should spend it on girls' education. I would suggest that the hon. Minister should devote his attention more towards girls' education. Moreover, the schools which are opened in villages for boys and girls receive their grants from the district boards. I think that such grants should not be given through the district boards. We know that the plight of teachers of district boards is very miserable and the arrangements in the district board schools are far from satisfactory. I can say about the district board schools of Karnal that there are no mattings nor chairs for boys to sit on. If there is any chair it is in a rickety condition. Under these circumstances, I think that these schools should receive their grants directly from the Education Department.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I am very sorry to say that the members of the Opposition have staged a walk-out to-day. In view of this although the members of this side of the House have been able to get more time to speak yet I think that without Opposition parliamentary system is considered to be incomplete. In their absence, we had a dull day but nevertheless constructive suggestions have been made by the hon. Members which the Government greatly welcomes. So from this point of view I should say that there has been greater concreteness and utility in to-day's discussion. The members of the Opposition had a grouse against the Government that they had not been given an opportunity to discuss Education and Transport. But as this day had been fixed for discussion of community project which has a close bearing on the economy of the State it would have been better if they had remained sitting and offered their constructive suggestions to the Government.

India has attained independence after long years of slavery and after the achievement of political independence it has kept itself outside the sphere of influence of any other country. Whatever policy is framed by our Government with regard to foreign affairs or commercial or agricultural matters it is always independent and free from any interference of any other country. It means that our country is to-day an independent sovereign State. Our Government would always continue to pursue its own policy with freedom of thought and conscience and would never allow itself to be whipped up by any foreign country.

The object of U.S.A. aid to us has never been to make us a tool for the furtherance of its policy nor could we ever accept that aid with such object. Our country has recently won freedom and its financial position is not stable

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as that of other independent countries. It was, therefore, the prime need of the country to have asked for financial aid from some other country which may be willing to render help to the economically backward countries. America has advanced us this loan so that we may be able to solve our economic problems. We have never even for a moment imagined that this foreign aid would in any way influence our foreign policy. The people who think that some political strings are attached to this foreign aid perhaps do not wish that our country should make any progress. They only want to gather somehow or other some material to exploit the Government and to paint it in dark colours. The Government of India after the attainment of Independence had to devise ways and means of systematically developing our country and thereby improving the lot of the people especially of those who are living in the countryside. I think that this scheme of community projects envisages an all-round development of rural areas and it will go a long way in improving the standard of living of the people. If we raise the standard of living of the village folk who form 85 per cent of the population of India then I think that the people in urban areas would automatically be in prosperous condition. Economic development of India depends upon the uplift of the people in villages. Since the attainment of independence the economic policy of the Government has been diametrically opposite to the one which was followed during the British regime. The British Government had built up metalled roads to link towns with mandis so that it may carry the raw material from one place to another. Their economic policy aimed at dumping of foreign goods in the Indian market and taking large quantities of raw materials from India to their own country. There is no denying the fact that they deliberately tried to suppress and repress the people living in cities for their own benefit. But now the Government is concentrating its efforts on making the people in cities economically strong so that they may also make a headway side by side with their brethren in the rural areas.

Now, our towns will have to discard the imported goods and instead try to consume the raw material produced in the rural areas of our country and convert it into manufactured goods. This change will remove our economic dependence on other countries and usher in the era of economic independence. These community projects are the first milestone on the road to that independence.

Many hon. Members have complained about and made a grievance of the fact that such projects have not been allotted to their districts or tehsils. None of them had anything to say by way of opposition to this scheme ; on the other hand they have given expression to irritation at having been left out. Sir, I consider their irritation in this matter as commendation and appreciation of the scheme of community projects which the Government has started with a view to promote the well-being of the people. This irritation indicates their realization of the fact that they cannot ascend the ladder of progress without such schemes of community development. So far so good, but too much irritation is not good. My hon. Friends may rest assured that this scheme will be extended to all districts and tehsils one by one. First, let us gain experience and knowledge of the fact as to how best results and maximum success can be achieved. We have also to see how the people respond and how much enthusiasm and zest they display.

Hon. Friends from Hissar have also complained that no community project has been allotted to their district. They have probably overlooked the fact that after 1954 supplies of water from Bhakra Dam to this district

will be so abundant that it will be in a position to make the same progress as will be brought about by community projects in other districts. Hissar will definitely have a good share in the return of the expenditure that is being incurred on the Bhakra Project. By this, I do not mean that this district will be totally ignored so far as the scheme of community projects is concerned. First, we want to see what progress the people of Hissar can make after the supply of water for irrigation purposes.

Our plan is first to cover the whole of the Tehsil in which the work of community development has been started and then to try to cover the whole of the District of which that tehsil forms a part. To begin with, work will be started in a block of hundred villages of tehsil and it will be expected that the neighbouring villages will also take a cue from them and start development work on their own initiative. Sir, it is a pity that the habit of dependence on the Government in every matter has become deeply-rooted and the people instead of thinking of 'what they are doing for themselves' always think of 'what the Government is doing for them'. I admit that every one of us is to blame for fostering this kind of mentality. Moreover, the sort of bitter and trenchant criticism that we used to hurl against the foreign Government in the heat of struggle against them is now being levelled against us. Nobody seems to realize that the present Government is composed of the elected representatives of the people who are sincerely desirous of promoting the welfare of the people and are making honest efforts towards that end.

I may also make it clear to the House that the allotment of community projects was made in accordance with the instructions of the Government of India. They had directed that these should first be allotted to those areas which were not quite undeveloped so as to ascertain what maximum progress could be achieved with the money invested within the shortest possible time. They were also of the view that the allotment of these projects to not quite undeveloped areas would result in rapid progress and create enthusiasm among the rural masses. It is in view of these considerations that such projects have been allotted to Jagadhri, Sonepat, Nilokheri, Faridabad, etc. Though I did not want to talk in terms of Divisions, yet it is a fact that the interests of Jullundur Division have not been ignored in this matter and community projects have been allotted to those tehsils in it which were already in some appreciable stage of development. It has been said about Jagadhri Tehsil that it is backward, but, Sir, the fact that quite a large part of it is highly developed should also not be lost sight of.

The Government of India have now asked us to recommend for the allotment of more blocks to such areas as are neither very backward nor advanced, i.e., those which are in a middling state of development. What they are aiming at is the achievement of better results with comparatively less effort and a rapid increase in agricultural production in a short period of time. While selecting these areas the fact whether consolidation work has been completed there or not has naturally to be taken into consideration. How can we recommend areas where this work has not been completed or is not likely to be taken in hand in the near future ? We have to make a recommendation for the allotment of six blocks though the actual number of blocks that will be allotted is a matter in which the final decision rests with the Government of India. I may, however, inform the House that the greater the success which attends the execution of these projects in a State, the greater the number of projects that may be allotted to it. Therefore, Sir, it is the duty of every one of us to try to achieve maximum progress and show the best results.

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Mr. Speaker, after all the hon. Members should not forget that the work of community development actually started on 2nd October 1952. All that was done prior to that date was paper work and talking. Preparations for the inauguration of the paractical work were not quite complete but we did not want to miss the birthday of the Father of the Nation and so on the auspicious birthday of that great man who played the most important part in the drama of the emancipation of our nation, this work was inaugurated.

Sir, whatever Shri Ram Kishan has stated about the non-payment of salaries to the teachers is correct. I admit that we cannot get rid of financial red-tapism. But the anxiety of the Government of India to see that the money allocated for community projects does not go waste just as the American money was wasted by Chiang Kai-shek Government, is really understandable. We have to apply for sanction for everything. All the schemes and plans are first examined by the Planning Commission ; and the Finance Ministry of the Government of India scrutinises them and then they have to undergo the close scrutiny of our own Finance Department.

We have no hesitation in saying that we have this difficulty. But the real thing is that we have to make those Community Projects a success. Everybody has praised for our strong arms, our brains and our enthusiasm for work. With these qualities, we can do whatever we like. But the difficulty is that the people of the State are under the influence of laziness, lack of initiative, carelessness and illiteracy. We have to banish all these evils and we have got the chance to do it through the Community Projects. This golden opportunity should not be missed. But do you think that, since there are these shortcomings, the work of making the Community Projects successful is to be done by the Punjab Government or by the Publicity Department or by the Bharat Sevak Samaj ? No. If this work is to be carried to a successful conclusion, it shall require effort on the part of every resident of the Punjab who possesses a tongue in his month, strength in his arms, brain in his head and love for his country in his heart. If he does not himself take the initiative, his representative organisations have to take the initiative to inspire and enthuse him and in this way, the good of the people has got to be achieved through their own efforts.

But the misfortune is that the political parties opposed to the Congress actually want in their heart of hearts that these schemes should not fructify. Their object is that the experiment of these Community Projects should fail. I have no hesitation in saying about the Communists brethren that their object is that poverty should go on increasing in the country so that they may get the opportunity of capturing power by raising the slogan of hunger. So far as the Akali Party is concerned, it lacks sense. It knows only this that it must condemn everything, good or bad, done by the Government. Besides this, there is the party of our Socialist brethren. They think that to abuse the Government is to do something constructive. They also think that perhaps this is the secret of the success of the Communists which they have achieved in the matter of wining some seats in some States. I am amazed when I find that even leaders like Shri Jai Parkash Narain, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and Shri Ashoka Mehta believe in abusing the Government and indulging in irresponsible criticism. When this is the condition of these political parties, the heavy responsibility of improving the economic condition of the country falls on the only one political party

and that political party is the Congress Party. (*Cheers.*) This responsibility is a legitimate one because the people do not regard the Congress as a political party but as a part of the country. Not only this. They regard it as the country itself or another name for the country. Thus the responsibility for raising up the country lies on this Congress Party which may be called the national party or the nation itself. If, therefore, the members of the Congress Party who have been returned here by the people, or other members of this organisation do not take it upon themselves to make this work a success, then you may take it that the country cannot make any progress economically. But if my brethren make up their mind to uplift the country in every case, nobody can stand before them. If a party of patriots, i.e. the Congress Party is in power and it possesses such a weapon as the Community Projects then if it does not spread its influence over all the State, who is to blame except the Members of the Assembly ? I know that the members have usually petty grievances and complaints of their own. But if they do not act enthusiastically on the programme of the organisation whose members they are, then success cannot be achieved. But I am confident that the members of the Congress Party are quite united in the matter of public service. I know that a number of my hon. Brethren will say that their work finds no appreciation in the press. That is quite true. Some of the newspapers have made it their duty to abuse the Congress and to condemn everything that it has done. But I believe that the desire to earn cheap popularity in the newspapers, is to show cowardice. If you cannot start a newspaper of your own, it does not matter. But it is a matter of deep regret that a party consisting of one hundred members which is running the administration of the State and has in its possession a weapon like the Community Projects to better the lot of the people, should fail to wield its influence on the people of the State. But I think the members of our Party do not shirk work. They are only feeling shy and are hesitant. It is true to some extent, that when a ruffian is faced with a gentleman, the latter fights shy of taking any step against him. But we have not to keep hesitating for long. We have not to let a scheme like the Community Projects go to dogs. It is a jewel ; it is a beautiful weapon with which we have to raise the country, to increase the food production, to improve the standard of living of the people and through which we have to raise ourselves to the level of England, America and Russia.

In this connection, Professor Mota Singh remarked that Russia had made a remarkable progress. That is true. But we should take into consideration the economic condition of that country at the time when in 1918, the Russian people wrested power from the hands of the Czar. Up till 1925 the Communist brethren of Russia did not know what to do. Then they had to hang hundreds of opponents to carry out the five-year plan that they had drawn. But just see the democracy on our side. Under it, you cannot gag the mouth of anybody. You cannot check the people who abuse the Government. I think the democracy in our country can be saved only with great courage. Under this democracy, the newspapers try to blackmail us by making wrong statements. Even the political parties try to coerce us by condemning our work or in other words, try to weigh down our spirits. If we ourselves think that we are bad, this condemnation would produce a depressing weakening effect on our minds. But if we think that what we or the Punjab Government are doing is good and is for the good of the public, then this destructive criticism would produce no adverse effect upon us. In that case, we will carry on our work in high spirits and nobody will be able to stand before us, with such a spirit it would no longer remain a difficult job to tackle the Community Projects.

[Minister for Development]

Then, my hon. Friend Shri Sethi had remarked that no provision was made in the Budget for setting up industries under the Community Project Scheme. But my hon. Friend Sardar Gurbanta Singh put forward a suggestion that there was no need for setting up industries under this scheme. I would like to tell my hon. Brethren that a sum of Rs. 2,01,700 has been provided for imparting training in tanning industry. Industry is not a thing which can be set up like the building of a house with bricks and mortar. Before the setting up of an industry, there is need for imparting training in that industry to the people. I avoid using the word industry because it is a misleading term and connotes big factories as described by Mr. Puri. We have to impart training to the people in those small-scale industries wherein they should be able to manufacture articles in their spare time by selling which they may be able to earn a better living. That is why we have made a provision of Rs. 2,01,700 for imparting training in leather crafts such as gut-making, shoe-making and treating and tanning of hides. In this way, we have laid the foundation for the future development of the industry in villages. It was pointed out that the zamindars of Rohtak are burying their dead animals as the Harijans do not co-operate with them. I do not know how far it is true but in case it is, I would request the hon. Members that they should take steps to bring about a compromise between the zamindars and the Harijans of that place so that the wealth of our country is not buried in the ground. In case the hon. Members do something, well and good, if not, we shall pass a law that nobody should bury the dead animals. But I must say that if no compromise is arrived at and some law is passed in this connection, the Harijans will stand to lose. Who knows the contractors of which Tehsil would take away the skins of the animals ! In these circumstances I would submit that a rapprochement be effected between the zamindars and the Harijans and the wealth of the country should not be allowed to go waste. Out of seventy-five lakh animals in our State, about seven and a half lakh die every year. The value of their flesh, skins and bones is in the neighbourhood of five crores of rupees. I would request that gentlemen like Sardar Gurbanta Singh, Chaudhri Sundar Singh and Shri Chand Ram should make all-out efforts to bring about a proper understanding between the Zamindars and the Harijans. In case they do not succeed in this task the Government will be forced to pass a law for this purpose. We cannot allow a sum of about five crores of rupees to go waste. What is desired is that the Harijans should continue to do this work as they are conversant with it. The Jats can't do it well. They are likely to spoil the skins by misuse of their weapons. But then nobody should have any hatred for this work. I would go to the extent of saying that even the M.L.A.s should take to it. There is nothing good or bad in a work, only thinking makes it so. I am prepared to do this work. I have no hatred for it. Why should we allow a large sum of about rupees five crores to be wasted ? At the moment we want huge amounts for the development of our State and we shall save every penny we can for the progress of our country. Now we have about three lakh buffaloes which are over three years of age and are capable of yielding milk. We may be having the same number of cows approximately. One is really surprised to see the state of affairs in countries like England, Switzerland and Holland. We require five crore maunds of milk if we wish to supply half a seer of milk to every individual of our population. And if we give half a chhatank of ghee to every person, we stand in need of about six crore maunds of milk. I have not taken the sweetmeats and other milk products required by us into account But then we have only seventy-five lakh animals including camels, etc. Under these conditions how could everybody get enough of milk and ghee.

in our country ? This is why we are forced to use vegetable ghee which injures our health. We have to import thousands of maunds of cotton seeds from abroad. I am really pained to talk of all this. We do not produce even sufficient oil for our consumption. We have to import large quantities of 'toria', 'taramira' and mustard oils. We have to get even oil-cake from abroad.

Mr. Sethi was good enough to remark that we were forgetful of development of industries in the State. I may tell him that we are doing and shall continue to do whatever we can for the development of our industries. We have an earnest desire that our State and the country should march on the road to progress. Shrimati Sita Devi had said that the women were not getting a fair deal. I ask her is there not dearth of properly qualified women in the State ? We cannot get properly qualified women if and when wanted. It is wrong to say that we do not care for them. We wish to safeguard the rights of women. But there is something strange and funny. Shrimati Sita Devi's views could have been appreciated if she were to refer to the spinning wheel or the weaving of sheets and durries. She should have known that at the moment cows were under discussion and not men and women. (*Laughter.*)

Now something about communications. I agree that we should spend larger amounts in this connection. The animals of the zamindars pull the carts on the kacha roads with very great difficulty. I believe that our country cannot advance till we construct countless good roads. In America and other western countries stress was at the very outset laid on communications. This is exactly what we should do in this country. The people of Kangra, Una and Naraingarh are facing very great difficulties in this connection. In these circumstances, I think that we should spend as much as we can on communications. The Government is alive to this necessity and would never grudge making large provisions for this purpose. So far as the schools are concerned, so many people, for example, the Arya Samajis, the Sikhs, the Jainis and the Sanatan Dharmis, etc., are prepared to spend on them but nobody except the Government has to shoulder the construction of roads. The secret of a country's prosperity lies in communications. If after paying off a debt of eighty-eight crores of rupees the State has to incur another similar debt, I think it is worthwhile to do so and spend the amount raised on the construction of roads. If our communications are good the commodities can very easily be taken from the village to the town and vice versa. Our people will become more civilised and the country will advance. So this provision of thirty-one lakhs of ruppees is not very considerable. I wish we had a bigger provision for this purpose. Mr. Speaker, my hon. Friend Shri Ram Kishan has remarked that large funds are being spent on the establishments of various departments. In this connection my submission is that I myself wish that less money should be spent on the maintenance of establishments but the difficulty is that the Administration cannot run smoothly without sufficient staff. Even in order to build a road we have to employ a large number of workers. Our estimate is that during the current year the sum of Rs. 1,10 lakhs is to be spent whereas we have spent only Rs. 1,38,000. I would submit, Sir, that they should not care for the friends who are not sincere. They should not consider the headlines of the newspapers as true.

Mr. Speaker : You should not doubt the honesty and integrity of the Press which is a responsible organisation.

Minister for Development : Sir, perhaps you do not read vernacular newspapers. They are rather reactionary than progressive but so far as the Hindustan Times and the Tribune are concerned their standard is of course very high. Just the other day I asked a politician friend that there was a need for a good vernacular paper in our State. His reply was that no good newspaper could be a success in our State. My submission is that it is the Press which raises as well as lowers the morale of a nation. I know one American Socialist leader who was the author of about 60 books. He once remarked that if all the daily newspapers of America were put under his control he could convert all Americans to Socialists. But in a country where some of vernacular newspapers are so objectionable that they are not decent enough to be read in family circles, would they be an instrument for uplifting the nation or weakening it ? The newspapers which we considered progressive in the beginning have in course of time been proved to be reactionary.

My hon. Friends are at liberty to quote the examples of Russia and China but the fact is that no Constitution of any country of the world can compare favourably with our Constitution. Our principles are far better than theirs and we would continue to act according to those principles. In our State an area of 1,30 lakh acres of land is under cultivation which includes land irrigated by canals and chos as well as land irrigated by other means. The total income of our State from agriculture is Rs. 1,51 crores which is not satisfactory. As has already been remarked by my hon. Friend, Shri Ram Kishen, the yield from our land is very low. In England the average yield of crops is 90 maunds per acre which is due to the fact that they make scientific analysis of the soil and use scientifically prepared manure to increase the productivity of the soil. But here in our country nobody cares to see whether the land is alkaline or acidic. Under the Community Projects we have to improve 7½ lakh acres of land. It would not be out of place to mention here that we have been able to carry out weeding operations successfully in 44½ thousand acres of land, and it has now become fit for cultivation. What I mean to submit is that we are earnestly trying to achieve our objective.

Next, Sir, I would submit that as many as 34,922 cattle were given prophylactic injections. Previously, people used to drive their cattle through a narrow street where a broken *chapni* was kept hanging and they felt satisfied that their cattle would remain immune from epidemics. In almost every village this method was adopted. Again, 43,400 cattle have been given injections to prevent the diseases of mouth, feet and smallpox. We quite realize the difficulty experienced by a zamindar if his buffaloes fall sick during the harvest days which are the days of taking milk and *kachi lassi*. We have, therefore, given injections to 31,500 cows to guard them against cow-pox. Sir, these are not bogus figures which I am placing before the House. We have maintained a register in every village in which such entries are made regularly and which can be checked by my hon. Friends if they so like. As a matter of fact we want to train every person to inject his own cattle himself. The medicines are so cheap that 10 to 15 cattle can be injected with medicine costing one pice. I would appeal to the hon. Members of the Congress Party that they should give their full co-operation to the Government in this regard because the ruralites would not question Sardar Gopal Singh Khalsa or Chhina Sahib but they would certainly question my sister Sita Devi, if steps are not taken by the Government to better their lot.

Sir, one of my hon. Friends has objected that we are getting *begar* from the people. In this connection I would like to state that Mr. Brayne's days have passed and we want to do away with the old practices. This is India

and not China. My hon. Friends while quoting the examples of China conveniently forget that if in China they had criticised the Government in regard to the Community Projects Scheme and raised the objection that *begar* was taken from the people they would have been taught an object lesson. They should thank this democratic Government which has been established in our country in keeping with our culture and civilization otherwise we are well aware of the conditions that prevail in Russia and China. Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that whereas the hon. Members sitting on the Opposition Benches were born in India, have Indian parents and have been taking milk of Indian buffaloes, they still pay their compliments to Russia and China. If a diplomat like Mrs. Pandit had admired the progress made by China after her visit to that country it was an act of diplomay on her part.

So, Sir, my submission is that they must go there, enjoy the trip and also make an appraisal of the real conditions obtaining there and then tell the House the truth. I would ask my hon. Friend Shri Ram Kishen to go and work at the Community Projects, if he is really desirous of promoting the welfare of the people, and set an example for others.

I may now inform the House about the work that has so far been done at the sites of these projects. So far, 2,077 acres of land hvae been reclaimed and twenty thousand acres of land have been cleared off of all noxious weeds such as Pohli. After all, Sir, how much land can be reclaimed with centuries old and antiquated agricultural implements such as the plough used by our peasants which has a blade just three inches long. Then, may I know whose fault it is if our country has a population of 35 crores and has to import lakhs of tons of foodgrains from other countries to feed it ?

I may also tell the House that the officers detailed on these projects are working very honestly and conscientiously. But how I wish each of the hon. Members of this House were to persuade five men from his constituency to volunteer themselves for this work. In that case there would be no reason why this scheme should not prove a roaring success. We cannot and should not depend wholly upon the help of the Government of India. In the first year, they had no doubt allocated a sum of Rs. 65 lakhs to our State, but this year they have reduced this grant to Rs. 45 lakhs and it is quite likely that next year we may not be able to get from them for this purpose even a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs. This is why we cannot start the execution of this scheme simultaneously in all the tehsils and all the districts. Professor Mota Singh has cited the example of Russia but ignored the vital difference in Russian set-up and ours. It is not for nothing that we are spending huge sum of money on legislatures. Russians can do without legislatures, our conditions and traditions are different from theirs ; we cannot leave the path that we are treading to follow them nor can we adopt their system and institutions.

My submission to my hon. Friends who are members of the Congress Assembly party is : It is our first and foremost duty to try to make the schemes initiated by the Central Government successful. I feel it is also our duty not to let the Harijan brethren remain backward. Responsibility for all this rests upon our political party and it is time we realized it knowing that no other party is going to co-operate with us. We have to accomplish this task by co-operating with each other in a common endeavour. The Government of India has so far provided a sum of Rs. 85 lakhs for this purpose and God knows what help they will give us in the future. But let us make a firm, unshakable resolve to see this work through, come what may. We shall give loans to the peasants for sinking of wells and for other

[Minister for Development]
purposes also as far as possible, no matter if our Budget continues to be a deficit one for a few more years. Afterwards, when the condition of the people improve, we shall devise ways and means to balance it. We are proud of the fact that there is nothing that an Assembly, of which an embodiment of self-sacrifice like yourself is the Speaker, cannot achieve.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. one lac.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1,000.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be redcued by Rs. 101.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 85,01,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Community Development Projects.

The motion was carried.

(*The House then adjourned till* 2 *p.m. on Thursday the* 19*th March,* 1953)

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

19*th March*, 1953

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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Thursday, 19*th March*, 1953.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 19th March, 1953.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR (DISPENSED WITH).

Mr. Speaker: As the hon. Members are aware, today is the last day for voting on demands for grants. If questions are taken up, the hon. Members would perhaps not get sufficient time for expressing their views. There will, therefore, be no question hour today and the hon. Members can make use of that time for taking part in the discussion. Under the rules, I have got to apply guillotine at 5.0 p.m. so that all the demands may be passed by 6.0 p.m. As the hon. Minister would require about an hour for replying to the debate the hon. Members can discuss these demands from 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

PRIVILEGE MOTION RE. MISREPORTING BY A NEWSPAPER

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Ambala City) (*Hindi*): Sir, with your permission I beg to move a privilege motion.I spoke on the 17th of March, 1953 in the House on the demand relating to Irrigation. My speech as reported in one of the vernacular papers, namely the 'Partap' ascribes to me certain statements which I never made. The said newspaper has, therefore, committed a breach of privilege of one of the Members of this House. I have obtained from the office a copy of the official report of the speech made by me on the 17th and for the information of the hon. Members I wish to read out the relevant extract from it. I said—

> Mr. Speaker, we have been discussing the Irrigation, Power and Public Works Departments since yesterday. I have heard with rapt attention the speeches made by the members of my own party as well as by those in the Opposition. On hearing the speeches delivered from the Government Benches, I got the impression that complete Ram Rajya had been established and that there was no defect or shortcoming in this department. The Members of the Opposition tried to show by their speeches that there was not even a trace of Ram Rajya but Satan's rule had come to be established.

You were pleased to remark that the word' Satan 'was unparliamentary and I withdrew it. In the ' Partap' dated the 18th March, 1953, these remarks were reported thus—

> **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's Certificate to the Punjab Government.**
>
> Today, while speaking in the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the demand for Irrigation, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan remarked that Satan's rule existed in the State.

I want to draw your attention towards the fact that I did not make the statement attributed to me by the ' Partap '.

Mr. Speaker: From what the hon. Member has stated it appears that the newspaper in question did not act properly. But instead of discussing this

[Mr. Speaker]
matter in the House I would like to forward it to the Chairman of the Press Gallery Committee so that he may investigate it and ask the person concerned to make amends for it. If necessary, the decision arrived at by the Press Gallery Committee will be placed before the House which can then proceed with the matter.

STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF MINISTER RE. WALK-OUT STAGED BY OPPOSITION ON 18th MARCH 1953.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the Members of the Opposition staged a walk-out yesterday. Whatever may be the reasons for it, the very fact that the Members of the Opposition staged a walk-out is to be regretted. I do not want to enter into any controversy about the propriety of walk-outs on certain occasions but I deem it necessary to say a few words about the reasons advanced in the House as well as outside for that action by the Opposition. It has been stated that the Government had agreed to place for discussion the demand in respect of education. The Government has been charged with not fulfilling the promise which it is alleged to have made. I want to draw your attention to the list of demands for discussion which was circulated through you. It would be, noticed that the demand for 'education' was not included in that list. It is therefore, not right to say that the Government had gone back on its pormise.

Mr. Speaker, the Chief Whip met the Leader of the Opposition and enquired from him as to which demands he would like to be discussed. The Chief Whip was told that the demands for General Administration, Irrigation, Development and either Education or Transport should be discussed in the House. It was suggested to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that the demand for Education was discussed last year too and it would not be proper to discuss the same subject every time. Moreover, it was a convention to take up different demands every year except that for General Administration which was discussed every year. The demand for General Administration is taken up every year because it provides an opportunity for discussing almost every thing. This is the whole position. As regards the demand for Transport, that was changed in consultation with the Members of the Opposition (*Voices*: *No. No.*). We were told that it would be better to discuss the new Capital of the Punjab. The hon. Leader of the Oppositon would bear me out that in spite of that thing the Chief Whip told him that we were still prepared to discuss the demand for Transport, if he so desired. The Leader of the Opposition had told me that he would convey to me the decision of his party after consulting the members of his party. But without giving me any information they decided to stage a walk-out today. I may assure the House through you, Sir, that the Government have no intention whatsoever to stifle the voice of the Opposition by the strength of its majority. If any misunderstanding has been caused in their mind I am prepared to express my regret. But there is no cause for such misunderstanding. My hon. Friend is not in his seat, otherwise he would have borne me out that two or three days ago he came to me and asked me that a day be fixed for discussing Education. I told him that it would serve no useful purpose because this demand had already been discussed in the last session. But now he complains that I have not allowed this demand to be taken up as agreed upon previously. Sir, I hope that you will feel satisfied with my statement. I may also assure the hon. Members of the Opposition that the Government have not the least intention to usurp their constitutional rights. There can be difference of opinion on any matter and I ask my hon. Friends in the Opposition to come

to my room and discuss the matter with me. If my words have caused any misunderstanding I would not have the least hesitation in admitting my fault and expressing my regret before the House.

Sardar Gopal Singh: Sir, the statement made by the hon. Chief Minister is absolutely wrong. I would like to make a statement in reply to it. (*The Speaker rose and called the hon. Member to order but the latter persisted in making a Statement*)

Mr. Speaker: If the Leader of the Opposition behaves in such a way, then democracy is gone to dogs. He is a very responsible man and an old parliamentarian and, as such, he should know that whenever the Speaker is on his legs none else can stand or talk. He has defied by orders. Does he want that I should turn him out of the House for his misbehaviour? If he persists in defying my orders, I shall not hestiate to turn him out irrespective of the fact that he is the Leader of the Opposition. I am not responsible for his ignorance about the Rules. It is clearly stated in the Rules that a Minister has got the privilege of making a statement and that the same cannot be immediately thereafter discussed or contradicted on the floor of the House I would like to know under which rule the Leader of the Opposition is entitled to make a statment. We have to follow the Rules governing the debate. I would, however, sound a note of warning that if anybody disobeys the ruling of the Chair, he will have to pay a severe penatly for it.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS

EXPENDITURE ON NEW CAPITAL AT CHANDIGARH

Minister for Public Works (Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : Sir, I beg to move—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,54,61,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Expenditure on New Capital at Chandigarh.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,54,61,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Expenditure on New Capital at Chandigarh.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,54,61,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Expenditure on New Capital at Chandigarh.

The motion was carried.

LAND REVENUE.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir, I beg to move—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,27,14,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Land Revenue.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,27,14,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Land Revenue.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,27,14,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Land Revenue.

The motion was carried.

STATE EXCISE.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,68,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of State Excise.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,68,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of State Excise.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,68,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of State Excise.

The motion was carried.

STAMPS

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,46,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Stamps.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,46,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Stamps.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,46,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Stamps.

The motion was carried.

FORESTS

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,28,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Forests.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,28,500 be granted to the Government to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Forests.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,28,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Forests.

The motion was carried.

REGISTRATION

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Registration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000, be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Registration.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Registration.

The motion was carried.

CHARGES ON ACCOUNT OF MOTOR VEHICLES ACT AND OTHER TAXES AND DUTIES.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,76,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Act and Other Taxes and Duties.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,76,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of charges on account of Motor Vehicels Act and Other Taxes and Duties.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,76,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of charges on account of Motor Vehicles Act and other Taxes and Duties.

The motion was carried

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,30,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Administration of Justice.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,30,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Administration of Justice.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,30,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Administration of Justice.

The motion was carried.

JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,48,800 be garanted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,48,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,48,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

The motion was carried.

POLICE

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,01,56,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Police.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,01,56,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Police.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh (Adampur) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few observations in regard to the working of the Police Department. Firstly, I would state that the attitude of the personnel of this department has not changed appreciably. The Police Officers are in a position to harass any person they like by summoning him to the Police Station and detaining him there for a number of days without sufficient cause. I want to submit that the Police Officers should not be allowed to keep any person in their custody for any number of days with the object of investigating a case. I would, therefore, suggest that the Government should issue instructions to

the effect that the Police Officers, whenever they require a person for investigating a case, should make proper entries to this effect in regular registers together with details as to how long a particular person was kept under detention for the abovementioned purpose so that no Police Officer is able to misuse his powers. Then, Sir, it has generally been seen that in cases where a particular person who wields influence with the Police Officers picks up a quarrel with some other person, the former instigates them to harass the latter. The man is kept under unlawful detention and is made to do ' begar ' for the Police Officers. These irregularities should be stopped forthwith.

Sir, one more point which I want to mention is that the Harijans are not being given 19 per cent share while making appointments in this department. In this connection, I would like to submit that recently 34 A.S.I's were recruited but only one member of the Scheduled Castes has been taken. We are told that only 6 candidates have been directly recruited and the rest have been promoted from within the Department. In this way, a great injustice is being done to the members of these communities and they are not being given due representation in this department.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs 3,01,56,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Police.

The motion was carried.

SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh): Sir, I beg to move—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,51,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,51,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

Mr. Speaker; Question is—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,51,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

The motion was carried.

EDUCATION

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh) : Sir, I beg to move—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,52,20,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Education.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,52,20,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Education.

Master Gurbanta Singh (Adampur) (*Punjabi*): Sir, through you, I want to make a request to the hon. Minister for Education, with respect to the amount that has been provided for Education in this Budget. I have come to know that the Government does not give grants to those schools which were opened after 1933. The Government gives no help to these private institutions even though they may be carrying on with the utmost difficulty. On the other hand, it gives as much as Rs. 10,000 to some of the schools and Rs. 50,000 to some of the colleges every year as grants. I think a great injustice is being done to these private institutions, whether they are Middle or High Schools.

You know, Sir, that there is a lot of illiteracy in the villages, but the number of schools which can remove it is also very small. Neither the Government nor the District Boards open new schools in the villages. But if through some private effort somehow any private educational institution is started, the Government extends no help to it in the form of a grant. It does not realise with what efforts the people have established that school. This is all due to the stupid convention coming down to us from the times of the British regime that no grant is to be given by the Government to the schools started after 1933. I would submit to the hon. Minister for Education that now is the age of freedom. That old convention should be done away with and the schools, Middle or High, started after 1933, should be regularly given grants by the Government. If this is done, the people will be encouraged to open more new schools and illiteracy in the villages will be removed to a great extent.

Sardar Partap Singh (Rupar) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I wish to make a few submissions with respect to the Demand for the Education Department which is now under discussion. There are a number of schools, being run in the villages since long which receive no grant from the Government. Nor do the District Boards take notice of their difficulties. If our Government were to give grants to those schools in villages which were started after 1933, it would be a very laudable step. It would go a long way to promote the cause of education in the villages. Then I find that the Government is giving large grants to those schools and colleges which have a lot of income and are standing on their own legs. I believe that the money that is given to these institutions will be better utilized if the same is given to the newly-started schools. It is hoped that the Government will certainly give grants to the newly-started schools.

Minister for Education: Sir, with your permission, I would just interrupt. My friends, Master Gurbanta Singh and Master Partap Singh have said that grants should be given to the newly-started schools and college since, according to an old practice, those private institutions which were started after 1933, are not given any grants at present. I assure them that the Government is reviewing this position and I think that those schools which were started after 1933 will start getting grants according to their share, right from the current year. (*Cheers*).

Shri Rala Ram (Mukerian) (*Hindi*): Sir, the first submission that I wish to make through you to our Cabinet is that as much money has not been set aside for Education even this year as should be provided for this beneficent department. It is true that as compared with the last year, there is an increase of Rs. 41 lakhs in the provision made for this purpose. But all this amount of Rs. 41 lakhs will not be spent on the spread of education. Out of this sum, Rs. 15 lakhs will be utilized to meet the expenses of the salaries of those teachers whose salaries have been recently increased by the Government I admit that this expenditure is reasonable and there is no need for any criticism

against it. But the fact cannot be denied that this money which, really, should be spent for the spread of education will not be available for this purpose.

Besides this, our Government has received a sum of Rs. 14 lakhs from the Central Government this year for the purpose of Primary Education. But I am sorry to find that the Punjab Government has diverted Rs. 5 lakhs out of this sum for some old scheme. I wish that the whole of this amount of Rs. 14 lakhs should be spent exclusively for the spread of Primary Education. It is not proper to divert the sum of Rs. 5 lakhs out of this sum for the fulfilment of some old scheme. It is very necessary that attention should be paid to the work of spreading Primary Education in our State and the Government should provide the maximum amount of money for this purpose. It is necessary that more help should be given to the 700 Primary Schools opened last year by the hon. Minister for Education in order to keep them running. I, would therefore, urge that the whole of this amount of Rs. 14 lakhs should be spent for the spread of Primary Education.

In this connection, I wish to point out this fact also that the amount actually earmarked for Education is only Rs. 12 lakhs. You, Sir, will agree with me that this amount is quite insufficient to liquidate illiteracy and to effect the progress of education with the speed that we desire. I would ask the Minister for Education to provide more money for the spread of education.

There is one thing more to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Education. It has been provided in this Budget that the course of the Primary Education would extend over five years instead of four. This is a wholesome step which will go a long way towards the removal of illiteracy, but it will affect the private schools adversely. There are in all 491 schools as indicated in the list provided by the Government to the hon. Members. Out of these 491 schools, only 149 schools are being run by the Government, the District Boards and the Municipalities combined. This clearly shows that 68 per cent of the education that is being imparted in the State is being imparted through private institutions. What I wish to say is that by increasing the course of Primary education to five years, there will occur a decrease of one class in the Secondary Department which was a source of considerable income to these private schools. I admit that the course of the Primary Education should extend over a period of five years. But it also gives rise to a fear. There will occur a crisis in the education of the State. So in order to make good the loss which the private Middle or High Schools will incur on account of the elimination of one class, the hon. Minister for Education should increase the grant of those institutions and for this purpose more money should be provided. A right step has no doubt been taken in extending the course of Primary Education, but I am sorry to say that its financial aspect has been altogether ignored. As I have already stated, 68 per cent of the education (Secondary) is being imparted through the private schools in the State but for many years, the grant for those schools has been Rs. 4,01,875 only. These schools are fast increasing. In view of the speed at which we want to bring about educational progress in the State, this grant should be increased. Now, these private schools should not be given a step-motherly treatment. The step-mother has now gone across the seven seas. This Government is their real mother. The Government should give liberal grants to them . The private schools are doing the same work which the Government wants to do.Therefore, there is no reason why the Government should not extend a helping hand to them.

Then, Sir, I am pained to see that whereas the amount provided for scholarships last year was Rs. 2,11,680, this year this amount has been reduced

[Shri Raja Ram]
by Rs. 8,000. I do not regard it as a progressive step. In this connection, I wish to draw your attention to the annual report of the Ministry of Education. You will be surprised to hear that we are not acting on the lines indicated in that report "73 per cent of the boys who go up to the University stage", says that report, " are those whose education is sponsored by the University or the Government ". Bright and promising boys are the wealth of the nation. Poor but bright students are a national asset. We cannot ignore them. Able girls as well as the brilliant boys can now aim at a University career, whatever be the circumstances of their birth, for they can be given higher education at public expense. I had expected that more funds would be placed at the disposal of the Education Minister but I find that he has not been given an adequate amount. With this provision we cannot bring about the desired improvement in our education.

Principal Harbhajan Singh (Garhshankar) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, I completely associate myself with the view of my hon. Friends who have said that the money earmarked for Education is insufficient. No doubt, grant must be given to the new schools but it should not be given from the provision which has been made for the old schools. It is wrong to say that the old schools have had large amounts by way of grants and that they could now manage their own affairs. Among the old schools there are some which may have to be closed if no grant is given to them. If we continue to do things as we are doing we shall have to close our old schools and shall not be able to carry on with the new ones. The Government, as a matter of fact, should make an additional provision for the new schools. I think all the schools will suffer, if it is not done.

My second submission is that we should spend the maximum possible amount on our Primary Education. But then the Government should take steps to bring the new High Schools under its control so that they are properly run. These days schools are being opened at distances of every two miles. In this way, the number of students in the old schools is decreasing and the receipts from fees of these schools are also dwindling . The new schools too cannot have a large number of students. In accordance with a circular letter of the Government, a new school could not be opened within ten miles if a school already existed in that area. In case the Government now feel that more schools are needed, orders may be issued that new schools should not be opened within six or seven miles of an existing school. But it is not a wise policy to allow the opening of new schools at distances of every two miles.

The third thing that I wish to point out is that the private colleges are not getting sufficient grants. I had said last year and say it again that substantial grants should be given to them. Special attention should particularly be given to the colleges in the rural areas. The Government had been good enough to give a grant of five thousand rupees to three rural colleges last year and I hope that similar provision has already been made or shall be made this year as well.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Ambala City) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, I have to make only one submission and it is this that when education is spreading or is being spread in the State, no attention is being paid to the kind of education which is being imparted in our denominational institutions. I think and feel sure that the House will agree with me when I say that communalism is increasing owing to the fact that education which is being imparted in these institutions

is not calculated to engender fellow-feeling and eradicate hatred for others in the minds of our students. What is required is that the Education Department and the Education Minister in particular should see that the old system is overhauled. Nothing should be taught in our institutions which promotes communalism as otherwise our State stands to lose. I would submit that our education should teach us to love one another and not hate one another. This was all that I had to say and I hope that the hon. Minister will be good enough to pay attention to my suggestion.

Shri Daulat Ram (Kaithal) : Mr. Speaker, today I will speak about on very important aspect of education and that is elementary or primary education. Our country is now developing very much in the various spheres of life and it is absolutely necessary that it should also develop to the fullest possible extent so far as education is concerned. Sir, a very large majority of our population resides in villages or to be precise 90 per cent of the people in our country are the inhabitants of the rural areas. Most of them are illiterate. It is because there are no schools in the villages.

The Government have undertaken various development schemes of any unprecedented magnitude involving crores of rupees. As you know, Sir, they are mostly aimed at improving the standard of living of the poor masses who populate the villages. Unlesst he rural people have got a strong civil sense—and which they can have only if they are educated they will not be able to help the Government in carrying through those schemes. So in my opinion, the Government should, in the first instance, take effective steps to impart at least primary education to the abounding lakhs in our State. I would like to mention here one thing for the information of the hon. Minister for Education and that is this. The United States of America, after attainment of her Independence, spent huge sums to educate her masses. Nowadays, America possesses democracy in Education. Education there is not a monopoly of the idle rich or the privilege solely of the bloated middle classes but the birth right of every citizen. Primary education is free and compulsory in Europe.

This year the State Government proposes to spend only 12 per cent of the budget on Education. This amount is quite inadequate. The State Government should have provided much more for educating the masses. However, I earnestly hope that the State Governement will, while framing the Budget for the next year, find it possible to make an increased provision for this purpose. For the present, I would suggest that at least three-fourths of the amount earmarked for " Education " should be spent on primary education. This is a very simple request and I hope the hon. Minister for Education will be able to accept the same.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Atwal (Nawanshahar) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring it to the notice of the Education Minister that it is high time that the old system of education which was introduced by the British was changed The old system is like a machine which manufactures clerks. Even an M.A. produced by this system has to wander about in search of a job to earn his livelihood. I would, therefore, request the hon. Education Minister that he should take steps to change it with a view to enabling our students to earn while they learn. I have also to submit that steps should be taken to liquidate illiteracy as soon as possible and for that it is essential that our primary education should be compulsory and free.

Shri Gopi Chand (Pundri) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, the progress and prosperity of a country depend, upon the method of education prevalent

[Shri Gopi Chand]

there and if the system of education is good the people can make progress in every walk of life. In this connection, I would like to submit that our wide-awake Minister for Eudcation has from the very moment of his taking over the charge devoted himself to the opening of new schools and the question of nationalisation of text-books. He has also reduced the prices of the elementary Primers. However, the present system of education should be radically changed as has been remarked by the hon. Member who has preceded me. The old defective system of imparting education which was introduced by the British Government is still in vogue. This old rotten system is the root cause of unemployment and lavish expenditure. It does not build the character of the nation and, as such, is useless and is dear at any price. Lakhs of boys and girls appear in the Matriculation Examination every year but due to this defective system of education only 30 or 40 per cent of them succeed. Parents are required to incur heavy expenditure on the education of their children.

Mr. Speaker, now I would like to make a few suggestions in this regard. The price of the elementary primers should not exceed an anna in any case. The price of the text books should be reduced and the price of the books meant for the high classes should not be more than Rs. 5 in any case. The children of the poor people and especially the children of the depressed classes should be supplied books and stationery free of charge. True, due to its meagre resources our Government cannot afford to give milk etc. to the children free of charge as is done in foreign countries. However, I would like to make an appeal to our wide-awake and ever-vigilant Minister for Education that by putting in still more labour he should bring about fundamental and important changes in the system of imparting education. My submission is that a very inadequate provision has been made for the Education Department. Government should spend a greater part of the Budget on this department. In the end, I would suggest that all the Hindu and Khalsa schools as well as all other denominational schools should be nationalised because they are hot-beds of communalism.

Shri Ram Parkash (Molana) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, very inadequate funds have been earmarked for the Education Department in the present Budget. About 80 per cent of the people inhabiting our country are uneducated and that is why we are considered to be backward. In this connection, I would like to make a few observations in regard to my own district. In my district, the number of teachers is much less than actually required to cater to the needs of the students. The Government is at liberty to open as many schools as it likes but it must appoint more teachers where the number of students is larger. Sir, I can quote such examples of my district where the number of students is 600 while only six teachers have been appointed to coach them. The agitation, launched by the teachers some time ago, is known to every body but I am constrained to remark that their demands have not been satisfied up to this day which is a source of discouragement to them and they do not devote themselves fully to the discharge of their duties. I would, therefore, request the Government to give a sympathetic consideration to their demands.

Shri Babu Dayal (Sohna) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, to judge the worth of any work it is essential that it should be examined both from qualitative as well as quantitative points of view. So far as the quality of our educational system is concerned, I have to submit that our Graduates, M.A's and Ph. Ds neither possess self-respect nor are they self-supporting. They cannot take to any other vocation except service Although 6 years have passed since

we attained independence, we produce the same quality of educated persons who cannot earn their livelihood except through service. Sir, I am surprised to hear the speech of my hon. Friend who has remarked that the number of scholarships is very small. I would like to submit in this connection that the large number of scholarships reduces the standard of the mental faculties of the students.

So far as the 'quantity' is concerned, we have not been able to reduce the percentage of illiteracy in our State in a period of six years. It is a matter of regret that our officers including the Director and the Inspectors do not take any initiative in this direction. If the hon. Minister for Education approves of my suggestion the people may be ordered to open new schools in their villages under the trees, and after a period of one month the D.I's and the A.D.I's may inspect the places to see how many such schools have been opened in the 'air'. (*Laughter*). By 'air' I mean under the trees. I was submitting, Sir, that when such schools are opened the people may inform the D.I's and and the A.D.I's accordingly. My suggestion is that those teachers should not not be given regular salaries but the number of the students should be seen and their ability should be tested periodically. If the students make satisfactory progress in their studies the teachers should be allowed Rs. 5 per student as commission. Suppose, one hundred students attend a school every year ; 300 students can be educated in this manner within a period of three years. I further suggest that if a teacher works diligently for a period of three years he should be appointed as Education Commissioner and his status should be equal to that of a Gazetted Officer.

Minister for Education: The hon. Member should be prepared to accept that office. (*Laughter*).

Shri Babu Dayal: Sir, I am sure that if the Government abolishes the old defective system of imparting education and accepts my suggestion, it would be able to drive out illiteracy from the State. Government should take immediate steps in this direction and open libraries and reading rooms in every village. The literature should be such as may eradicate the evil of communalism, and create self-respect and self-confidence in the minds of children. This would go a long way in building the nation.

Mr. Speaker: And they must learn to maintain discipline also. (*Laughter*).

Shrimati Sita Devi (Jullundur City South-East) (*Hindi*): Sir, I wish to make a few suggestions with regard to education. On account of shortage of time at the time of general discussion of the Budget, I was able to speak only on some other subjects but could not say anything about education. There is no denying the fact that ever since the present hon. Minister for Education took charge of this Department he has tried very hard to promote the cause of education within the limits of the finances of the State. During this period, he has opened a large number of Primary schools and aslo some other schools.

Sir, through you, I wish to make a submission to the hon. Minister. It is this that the people are put to a lot of hardship on account of frequent changes which occur after every two or three years in the matter of prescribed school books. You, Sir, take into consideration the conditions obtaining in the Punjab. You might be remembering that at the time when you were a student, as many as five or six children of different ages of the same family managed to carry on their education with the same set of books. But today, the poor

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

parents go bankrupt over the cost of books alone. And then, the number of Government schools in the State is very small. They are to be found only in big cities. The fees in the Government schools are less as compared with the private schools; the latter have to charge high fees in order to keep themselves running. In those schools, the rate of fees for the fifth, sixth, seventh and the eighth classes is from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7. How can the people afford to give education to their children when it is so costly? We may deliver high-flown speeches from the stages exhorting the people to give education to their children, but they cannot have any effect, whatsoever, because people cannot afford to give such costly education to their children. And if education does not spread, how can our State go ahead?

There is, Sir, one thing more to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. It is this that the division of the whole of the Punjab into three zones for the purpose of prescription of text-books, which has now been done, is the cause of a lot of hardship to the public and the only persons who stand to gain by it are the publishers. If the number of students in a school is large, it gets more finances and nothing else. If the parents of some children are transferred to a place in some other zone, those poor children are put to a great inconvenience on account of that transfer. This matter is a cause of great hardship for the people every day. When it is difficult for them to earn their bread, how can they give education to their children? I would request the hon. Minister to abolish this zonal system at once.

Then, I would like to repeat once more that there is no need for any more Arts Colleges in our Punjab. If at all we are in need of any colleges, they are technical and medical colleges. There is at present only one Medical College in our State and that is situated at Amritsar. Sir, you must be fully aware of the fact and through you I wish to tell the hon. Minister that one gets admission to that college with utmost difficulty. The outlook of the people has now undergone a change. They have come to realise that it is no good giving education to their sons and daughters upto F.A., B.A. and M.A. They try to get their children admitted into technical institutions. And then no student who does not pass the examination in the first division is admitted to the Medical College. How much better would it be if another medical college is started in our State! But the hon. Minister would say that we should know that the condition of the finances of the State does not permit it. Yes, I know all these things quite well. But in this connection, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that whereas the Government has recognised the Christian Medical School for Women, Ludhiana, for the Degree of M.B.B.S., it has not given the same recognition to the Arya Medical School of the same place. That School has approached the Government in this connection not once but many times Ever since. 1947 when the Congress Government, came into power, time and again this question has been brought to the notice of the Government but every time it has imposed some new condition. To-day, I again wish to bring it home to the hon. Minister incharge that that is a ready-made college and if it is given a little aid, it will serve the purpose. We can thus have another Medical College in the Punjab.

Sir, I find at page 244 of the Budget Estimates an item of Rs. 22,000 in respect of scholarships to be given to the European children. I fail to understand how many European children are there now in our State. Then, I find that a sum of Rs, 7,000 has been provided for the education of the sons of soldiers. How much better would it have been if the grant provided for the European

children had also been earmarked for the sons of soldiers or for some other poor children !

There is another point, an important one, which I wish to make. In our Punjab, there are certain places which are the centres for the dissemination of rot instead of education. I am referring to the various so-called 'academies' which have been opened at a number of places. It is true that they provide educational facilities to the students for two or three months in a year. But at a number of places, these academies, instead of imparting good education, impart the worst type of education and are the centres of immorality. The Government should, therefore, take some steps to ban such academies. Another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is that the teachers of our State, whether men or women, are very low-paid, although they are called the nation-builders. Another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is that the salary paid to the men teachers is much more than that paid to the women teachers, even though the academic qualifications of both are the same. This sort of discrimination should be put an end to. Sir, for want of time, I have not been able to say many other things which I had a mind to say. I hope that the hon. Minister will pay attention to the things that I have pointed out.

Shrimati Parkash Kaur (Ramdas) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, since the demand on education was not likely to be discussed this time, I could not prepare all the points concerning this department. I would, however, submit that just as the two experienced Principals, Shri Rala Ram and S. Harbhajan Singh have opined, this demand is such that it calls for the allocation of the maximum possible funds. But despite the allocation of insufficient money I wish to congratulate the hon. Minister for Education for the wonderful success which he has achieved and also for the opening of 700 new primary schools in the State. I hope that he will continue to take similar steps in future to bring the benefits of education within the reach of every child and adult of the State.

Sir, in view of the limited time at my disposal, I would avail of this opportunity to ventilate in the House the difficulties that confront the people of the border areas, whom I have the honour to represent. Mr. Speaker, Ajnala is an area which altogether failed to attract the attention of the Government during the British regime. Even to-day the conditions obtaining there are so bad that leaving aside the shortage of time I cannot find suitable words to describe it. Therefore, without dwelling much on this point, I would simply say that that area has been converted into a backward one. Sir, through you I wish to tell the hon. Minister for Education that the plight of this area is really pitiable. Its reason is that prior to the partition, the Muslims accounted for 75 per cent of its population. In consequence of their migration to Pakistan, the same percentage of population, i.e. 75 per cent, now consists of those unlucky brethren and sisters who have been uprooted from across the border and who have not the means to earn their subsistence. Secondly, owing to this place being right on the bank of the river, the area is subject to frequent floods. Therefore, firstly, they do not have sufficient money to rehabilitate themselves and, secondly, whatever little they possess has either been destroyed or is in danger of being destroyed by floods. In this way, Sir, their plight has become all the more pitiable. Sir, despite their impoverished condition, I wonder why the Government have formulated such a policy that no school can be opened until a specified area of land and a certain sum of money are contributed by the inhabitants themselves. I wish to

[Shrimati Parkash Kaur]
tell you, Sir, that they are not in a position to raise funds and arrange land for this purpose. I, therefore, request the Minister for Education to provide full educational facilities to this area in view of the impoverished condition of the people because there is no denying the fact that the residents of that area contribute to the State Exchequer equally with other parts of the State. They are, therefore, equally entitled to place their grievances before the Government so that they may also be provided adequate amenities. In the circumstances, I hope that the hon. Minister will definitely look into this matter.

My second point, Sir, is that instead of giving them special privileges so as to restore confidence in them about the Government's particular anxiety to meet their requirements, even the existing schools have been closed. With a view to convincing the hon. Minister of this fact, I would like to urge upon him to undertake an extensive tour of that 'ilaqa'. He would then come to know that not only are there considerable distances separating any two villages but there are dense bushes in the way and for these reasons the children cannot go from one village to another with the result that they are deprived of even primary education. Therefore, I cannot help requesting the Government to open a school in every village so that our rural brethren may get amenities to impart education to their children.

Apart from this, Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the non-existence of any High School for girls in my tehsil of Ajnala. Previously, too, a similar demand was made and the departmental authorities were approached with a request to open a Government Girls High School in the area but it is a matter of deep regret that despite a lengthy correspondence no step has, so far, been taken in this direction. Through you, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that the District Board does not take initiative in the matter, for it thinks it is not its responsibility in view of Ramdas being a Small Town Committee. But on the other hand the financial position of this Small Town Committee is not sound and it cannot make arrangements for the opening of a Girls High School there. In these circumstances, I appeal to the Government either to open a Girls High School itself or sanction such grant for the Small Town Committee as would be sufficient to meet the expenses of the school.

Now, Sir, I wish to invite the attention of the Minister towards another important matter. In has been observed that many a time when sanction for the opening of schools in particular villages is given the residents of the villages concerned fail to run the schools and it is decided to shift them to other villages. But when the school has been shifted to the other village and its residents have made all the necessary arrangements, such as the raising of funds in order to finance the school and the construction of the school building, and the stage is set for its functioning, the District Inspector of Schools comes and orders that the school in question cannot be opened since it is sanctioned for some other place. Sir, I have got with me many examples of this kind but owing to the limited time at my disposal, I would not refer to them but would only urge upon the Minister incharge to pay his attention to these grievances and endeavour to redress them.

Then, Sir, previously, when primary schools were opened in the villages, it was the responsibility of the residents to provide a certain number of 'Kanals' of land but now those orders have been so revised that 'Kanals' have been substituted by "Ghumaons". Sir, my submission is that to-day when our

country is facing a food crisis, to-day when we are dependent on foreign countries even in the matter of food, is it proper to convert productive land, so many ' Ghumaons ' in area, into waste land? I hope that the Government will pay its full attention towards this matter as well.

Sir, there is another similar problem which is agitating our minds. Of course, our Government have made adequate arrangements for imparting free education to the Harijan children but it has been noticed that Harijan children cannot find admission into private institutions simply because they do not have the money to pay the fees with the result that they are deprived of the educational facilities. I, therefore, take this opportunity to bring home to the Minister this difficulty of the people, too.

The next point which I wish to refer to is that the population of Amritsar has increased. It is now two times or even three times of what it was before the partition but it is a matter of great surprise that as compared with other districts, not only the number of schools in this district is less but the amount of grant sanctioned for it is also meagre. It is a matter of regret that the grant has been reduced further. Therefore, availing of this opportunity I urge upon the hon. Minister kindly to increase the grant of this border district of the Punjab.

Sir, I wish to make a few suggestions and then resume my seat. Now we are a free country having a people's Government. We are anxious to banish illiteracy, to spread enlightenment amongst the rural masses, to encourage the people to adopt the high ideal of self-help through the Community Projects and to impart education even to the adults. It is of paramount importance that the Government should pay special attention towards cultivating the idea of undertaking constructive programme in the minds of our younger generation. I think that we should implant such ideas in the minds of the children through the agency of school teachers, so that there should be no trace of corruption in the personnel of the Government which they have to constitute tomorrow. It is in the fitness of things that they should be instructed to undertake constructive work right from now. I place an example of Delhi before you. I am extremely pleased to say, Sir, that not only there are separate periods for physical exercise in schools in Delhi but also the students there are taught how to do constructive work with agricultural implements in their hands. Similarly, I demand that a start may be made in this direction in the Punjab also and the children be given practical training in this direction once a week, say, on Saturdays.

In the end, Sir, I think it necessary to say a few words with regard to the subject of technical training also. I feel that the technical training should be imparted to the children right from the primary stage. It has been observed that some children, from the very beginning, have their bent of mind towards technical matters but they cannot develop this quality owing to the non-availability of opportunity. With these words, I resume my seat hoping that the Government will give its serious consideration to my objections and suggestions.

Minister for Education (Shri Jagat Narain) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, I am extremely indebted to my hon. Friends who have so kindly made some very useful and valuable suggestions with regard to the dissemination of knowledge among the masses. In this connection, Sir, I also wish to place some information before you. My first submission is that during the previous year the grant which was placed at our disposal to be spent for promoting education in the State was 10 per cent of the entire budget. You will be glad to know

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that through persistent requests made to the Minister for Finance I have been successful in getting this percentage increased to 12. Besides, I wish to assure my brethren and sisters in the House that to the extent to which more funds are placed at my disposal next year, I shall make more efforts to spread education in the State.

My hon. Friend, Principal Rala Ram, has enquired as to why a sum of Rs. 8,000 has been reduced under the item of scholarships. In this connection I wish to bring this point home to him that whereas in the year before last a provision of Rs. 2,00,000 was made in the Budget with a view to improving the lot of the Harijans, this allocation was raised to Rs. 4,00,000 in the last year's Budget. And, this year, Sir, you will be glad to know that as much as Rs. 8,00,000 has been provided for this purpose in the Budget. You can yourself infer from this that the reduction of eight thousand rupees effected in the item of scholarships will be utilised for stipends contemplated to be given to the Harijan students.

As to the observation made by my hon. Friends, Master Gurbanta Singh and S. Pratap Singh, to the effect that grants should also be allocated to the private colleges, I have already stated that this question is engaging the attention of the Government. Let me inform them that the Government is exploring the possibility of giving financial assistance to such institutions. Then, Sir, it was said that discrimination was made in sanctioning grants. One of the hon. Members said that the method adopted for that purpose was not right. It was suggested that instead of giving more to one institution and less to another, we should give equal grants to all. My hon. Friend, Principal Harbhajan Singh, suggested that the grants of those in receipt of these should not be decreased and if the Government wanted to give grants to other institutions these should be in addition to the existing ones. I wish our finances could permit us to give grants to new schools and colleges also but I feel that there are some institutions which are in receipt of sufficient amounts and they have their own funds as well. If the grants of these institutions are reduced, other institutions will be greatly benefited. So far as rural grants are concerned, I wish to tell the hon. Members that those institutions will go on getting proper share though it may be less than Rs. 5,000.

Then, Sir, it was said that the starting of new high schools should be regulated. I myself feel that education will suffer if high schools are allowed to multiply without any sort of check. Increase in their number at places where a smaller number of them would be enough leads to competition among them. Our difficulty is that the people come to us and press that a school must be started at a particular place. While making that demand they forget that a school already existed at a distance of about two miles from there. Yesterday, when I was on tour some people met me and asked for the opening of a school at a place which was one-and-a-half miles from the place where another school already existed. The Members of this House ask the Government from time to time to start schools at certain places and such demands put us in a very difficult position. I have noticed that at some places there are a number of schools at distances of two miles from one another and this leads to competition among them. This kind of competition is so keen in District Hoshiarpur that some of the schools cannot even meet their expenses. I appealed for the pooling of those schools but nobody was prepared to accept such a suggestion. Both the Principals who are members of this House belong to District Hoshiarpur. I would request them to pool the schools in their districts so that their act may serve as an example to others.

The learned Principal said that the system of education was not suited to the present-day conditions and it should be changed. I wish to inform him that we have set up a Committee for this purpose. That Committee is preparing a questionnaire which is expected to be published by April next. That Committeee will record evidence and recommend the necessary changes in the system of education. This work cannot be done in a few minutes or hours. There are a number of educationists in this House as well as in the Upper House and I would request them to send their replies to the questionnaire which would be issued by the Committee.

Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Shrimati Sita Devi said that denominational institutions were doing great harm. In this connection, I beg to submit that the Government has issued a circular letter containing instructions to the effect that religious education can be imparted but no school can impart communal education. There is no restriction in the matter of imparting religious education. The Government is keeping a strict watch to see that communal feelings are not aroused in any school.

(*At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it*).

I would request the hon. Members to bring to my notice any instance in which communalism is being preached in any school. I shall try to put an end to that thing.

My hon. Friend Shri Gopi Chand has suggested that primary education should be free and compulsory. As stated by me last time we are preparing a Bill for that purpose. The draft of that Bill has already been circulated among the District Boards and other local bodies so that instead of criticising the measure later on they may send their opinions in advance. Only three District Boards have sent their opinions so far. Other local bodies are again being asked to expedite the sending of their views. It is expected that the views of all these would be received within this month or by April.

My hon, Friend Shri Gopi Chand also suggested that the price of the primer should be one anna instead of seven-and-a-half annas. I want to tell him that it has already been reduced from seven-and-a-half annas to three annas. When its fresh edition is published I shall try to get it reduced still further. I beg to submit that the prices of text-books have already been lowered by 10 or 12½ per cent. My hon. Sister complained that the prices of books were very high. In order to remove this hardship the Government has itself taken over the publication of the English text-books of the eighth class and of all the books for the fourth and seventh classes. The price of a book selling for one rupee at present will be brought down to eight or nine annas.

My hon. Sister Shrimati Sita Devi suggested that the zonal system should be abolished. The pre-partition Punjab consisted of twenty-nine districts but now our State has only twelve districts. These twelve districts have been divided into three zones. Each zone has four districts. I wish to point out that the books which the Government is going to publish would be introduced in all the twelve districts of the State. These would not be meant for the fourth, seventh and eighth classes of the schools in some particular zone. As the Government goes on publishing more books these would be uniformly introduced in the schools in all the districts. As regards the complaint that books are changed after two or three years, I wish to tell the hon. Members that this

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will not remain the practice for ever. These will, of course, have to be changed when the new system of education is introduced. After that, the Government would itself publish the text-books and those would not be changed.

In connection with the tuition fees, it has been remarked that high tuition fees are charged in private schools as compared with the Government schools. I may state for the information of the hon. Members that the Government has issued instructions to the heads of private schools that they should fix tuition fees at the same level at which they are charged in the Government schools. We have no law under which we can compel them to scale down their fees so as to bring them at par with the fees charged in the Government schools.

During the course of discussion a reference was made to the libraries and I may point out in this connection that the Commissioner of Ambala Division—Mr. Randhawa has opened many libraries and reading rooms in that division. If I am not mistaken, I may say that about 70 or 75 libraries and reading rooms have been opened so far. In Jullundur Division also about 50 libraries and reading rooms have been opened. Both the Commissioners are taking great interest in the work of opening libraries in the rural areas.

My sister Shrimati Sita Devi has suggested that the Government should not open any more Arts Colleges. I may tell her that the Government does not propose to start any new Arts Colleges anywhere except at Chandigarh and Gurdaspur where there is a great need for such colleges. She has also drawn the attention of the Government to the need for opening a medical college in the State. In this connection I may submit that the Government has opened a Dental College to which 14 students have been admitted. The Government has also made a provision of Rs, 12 lakhs for the Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, and the Government of India has also contributed Rs. 12 lakhs in order to have a five-year course in that college. My sister Shrimati Sita Devi has also objected as to why five-year course is not introduced in the Arya Medical College, Ludhiana. I may submit in this connection that on assuming the charge of my office I was willing to introduce five-year course in that college but the college authorities did not agree to it. Sometime back, a conference of Health Ministers was held in Hyderabad and during the course of discussion it was stated that there were two medical colleges in India in which there was four-year course—one is Arya Medical College in the Punjab and the other is in Madras. It was decided in that conference that five-year course should be introduced in every medical college. In view of this decision I met the authorities of the Arya Medical College and also the members of the managing committee and asked them to have a five-year course in their college and also assured them of Government help but they were not agreeable to this suggestion.

Besides this, it has been remarked that one more medical college may be opened in the State. It appears that my hon. Friend is not aware of the fact that an initial expenditure of three or four crores of rupees has to be incurred to open a medical college. This matter is engaging the attention of the Government that in a medical college where 80 students have been admitted an additional arrangement for 25 or 30 students may be made. For this, a hospital of 100 beds will be required. There was a proposal that a new hospital of hundred beds may be added to the Medical College, Amritsar, but this proposal could not be carried through. Some of the hon. Members have raised an objection that students are not given facilities by the Government for admission to the Medical College. I very much desire to arrange for more accommodation but for this purpose a hospital of 100 beds would be necessary if we have to give

admission to 25 or 30 students more. An hon. Member has sent me a chit suggesting that the Government should open a college at Gurdaspur as there is at present no college there. As I have already stated the Government is considering the question of opening colleges at Chandigarh and Gurdaspur.

Besides this, my sister Shrimati Sita Devi has remarked that even after the attainment of independence the Government has made a provision of Rs. 22,000 in the Budget for the education of European boys. I would point out to her that according to the Constitution of India we cannot make any reduction in the budgetary provision under this head for ten years. Moreover, Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that there is disparity in the salaries of teachers and teachresses. So far as the government schools are concerned, I can say that there is no such disparity in their salaries. If the hon. Member brings to my notice any specific instances in which there exists a disparity in their salaries, I will take suitable action in the matter. So far as I think there is no disparity in their salaries.

Shrimati Sita Devi: I will send a list to the hon. Minister.

Minister for Education: Sir, my hon. Friend Sardar Darbara Singh has sent a chit to me enquiring as to why the Government does not take action to have all District Board schools functioning in the towns shifted to the villages. In this connection, I may submit that 80 per cent of boys who receive education in these schools hail from the countryside and thus these schools are primarily meant for the benefit of the rural people.

Then, Sir, my hon. Friend Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan has raised an objection that the text-books of history which are prescribed in the schools spread the virus of communalism. I may tell him that the Government has started making a scrutiny of all thetext-books and will expunge all undesirable parts from them to which the attention of the government has been drawn by the hon. Member. The Government have also issued instructions that the text-books should be in tune with the changed circumstances consequent upon the dawn of independence.

Then, Sir, my sister Shrimati Parkash Kaur has voiced the difficulties of the people of her constituency. I may point out to her that I have noted down their difficulties and after discussing the matter with her I will try to remove all these difficulties. Sir, I have tried to give reply to all the points raised by the hon. Members in their speeches.

Sir, one word more and I have done. I have just now read a statement issued by some hon. Friends in the Opposition in which it is alleged that I had gone to Haripur to canvass support for the Congress candidate by taking an undue advantage of my official position as Education Minister. I may assure you that this allegation is without any foundation. Such a thing as has been ascribed to me has never happened in the past and will never happen in the future. (*Cheers*).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: May I know, what is your policy with regard to schools functioning in the border areas?

Minister for Education: We have a soft corner in our hearts for such schools and we are never oblivious of their needs. You may, Sir, rest assured that we shall continue to give them the maximum possible aid.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,52,20,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Education.

The motion was carried.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Minister for Education (Shri Jagat Narain) : Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,17,40,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Medical and Public Health.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,17,40,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953--54 in respect of Medical and Public Health.

Shri Rala Ram (Mukerian) (*Hindi*): Sir, it is true that these establish ments, i.e, the hospitals of our State have been serving the public for quite a long time but it is a matter for regret that it is a general complaint about both the rural and the urban hospitals that patients belonging to the poorer section of the population do not get a fair deal in them. I have heard people saying that if such hospitals are closed altogether, the Government would be saved from much of the odium that it has to incur now owing to the bad treatment meted out to such patients. From the speech of the hon. Minister, I have gathered the impression that he knows that such a complaint exists. I, therefore, wonder why no practical steps have so far been taken to remove it and to assure the patients belonging to the lower strata of society of the availability of the necessary relief in hospitals. I can say about the hospitals of which I have some experience that such patients cannot hope to get a fair deal in them.

Sir, another important matter to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is that the "rural dispensaries" functioning in rural areas are instead of proving useful doing a disservice. They afford no relief to the poor for whom they are meant. I have personal knowledge about the working of one or two such dispensaries. So far as the dispensary opened in my village is concerned, people have told me that the person incharge of it does not provide medicine even to the poorest patient without charging something for it on the ground that all the medicines belong to him. What I want to suggest is that these 'rural dispensaries' should be converted into 'subsidised dispensaries' because the system of 'rural dispensaries' is such as cannot be easily improved, or these may be substituted by Ayurvedic Clinics so that a poor ailing man in need of relief may not have to go back dispppointed. The implementation of this proposal will not entail any additional expenditure As this is a very important matter, the hon. Minister may kindly give earnest consideration to it.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Atwal (Nawanshahar) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I wish to make a few observations with regard to the working of the Health Department. Sanitary conditions are far from satisfactory both in the rural as well as the urban areas because the Health Officers and the Sanitary Inspectors are not discharging their duties in a conscientious manner.

The system of flush latrines and urinals does not exist even in most of our towns. Sanitation of a town can never be called satisfactory so long as such latrines and urinals are not provided at every half a league. In case owing to the paucity of funds it is not possible to meet this essential sanitary requirement of a town, another scheme may be adopted which I think will prove very economical. An automatic flushing tank may be provided at the starting point of every drain which, of course, must be a pucca one. This will ensure the automatic cleansing of drains and flushing of urine and other refuse that may have collected in them and prevent their being clogged (which often happens) owing to the flow of water being insufficient and also prevent the spread of bad smell in the area. Provision of such tanks will result in automatic expulsion of refuse and rubbish and fortify every locality against the spread of diseases.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City, North-West) (*Hindi*): Sir, from the facts and figures that our Government has supplied to the Planning Commission it transpires that the number of hospitals and dispensaries in the urban areas of our State is 113 and 81, respectively, and in the rural areas 9 and 364, respectively. These figures include dispensaries run by the Railways, Police and the Canal Departments. From the relevant figures, it appears that the *per capita* expenditure on public health in this State in the year 1950-51 was only six annas; in 1951-52 it increased by one anna and in 1952-53 by another 1½ annas. In the Budget for 1953-54, the proposed expenditure on public health is 10 annas *per capita* which comes to Rs 1-1-0 per patient!

Sir, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that while crores of rupees are being spent on other departments it is but proper that more money should be spent on the Public Health Department. You would be remembering, Sir, that the people of the undivided Punjab were particularly famous for their good health and robust constitution throughout India. But now after the partition, the standard of health of our Punjab has not remained the same perhaps on account of under-nutrition. Now the health of the people of this State has considerably deteriorated. Of course, I do not want to compare the health of our State with that of other States; but we find from the report of the Finance Commission that, whereas our State is spending annas six, eight or ten *per capita* on health, our neighbouring State, Pepsu is spending Rs 1-1-0 to Rs 1-4-0 *per capita* on health. Similarly in the West Bengal, *per capita* expenditure on health amounts to from Re. 1 to Rs. 1-5-0. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister that he should pay immediate attention to this matter.

Now I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Ministers to Jullundur city. He is himself well aware of this fact that before the partition, the Civil Hospital at Jullundur was just a district civil hospital. But after the partition, this hospital, like the hospital at Amritsar, has assumed the shape of a divisional hospital. Now, the number of out-patients visiting that hospital is from 400 to 600 per diem and that of indoor patients from 150 to 200. But in spite of this increase in the number of patients, there has been no increase in the grant for the hospital. The hon. Minister has visited this hospital a number of times and he knows fully well that it has now acquired the status of a divisional hospital. I would submit that the grant for this hospital should be enhanced as much as possible.

Then, emphasis has been laid on the improvement of public health under the Five-Year Plan. Along with this, it has been emphasised that women in large numbers should be trained as nurses. I find that with the exception of Amritsar and Jullundur, nowhere in our Punjab there is arrangement for the training of nurses, although they are in great demand in our hospitals, etc. I hope that the hon. Minister will pay attention to this matter and arrangements will soon be made for the training of more nurses.

Shri Ram Sarup (Butana) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the life of human beings depends mostly on health. I am glad that Lala Jagat Narainji is incharge of this department and he himself is enjoying good health. I want that he should make an all-out effort to improve the health of the people of the Punjab.

You are very well aware of this fact that for ages the people living in the villages have been the victims of ignorance and illiteracy. Their way of living is not good. We should, therefore, take special care of their health. The Government should make arrangements to see that the houses of the villagers are airy and clean and the village streets are clean and not full of dirt. I believe that it will be good if the Government, through some legislation, were to make it obligatory for the villagers to maintain cleanliness. You would be remembering that the Government persuaded the villagers to prepare good manure by storing the refuse in pits instead of letting it lie in heaps. For this purpose, the Government has been carrying on propaganda among the people. But we find that those pits have not been dug even up till now. In this connection, I suggest that if we make it obligatory for them through a legislation to store dung and dirt in the pits in order to prepare manure everything will start moving in the proper fashion.

Then, Sir, I would like to submit that the Lady Welfare Workers employed under the Health Department used to do good work in towns as well as villages. Now these posts have been abolished. They taught women the method of nursing and of keeping the children healthy. In my view, they were doing quite useful work. The retrenchment of their posts is not good.

Then, my submission is that in the Karnal Hospital, where the daily number of indoor patients is usually 100, nay, 150, the Government had started a Male Nurses Training School. On account of those male nurses, the patients in the hospital were properly looked after. But now that school for the training of male nurses has been closed. Those male nurses have been dismissed and as a result, the Karnal Hospital has acquired a deserted look. I would, very respectfully, request the Minister that that Male Nurses Training School should be revived. If he is not prepared to do that, he should, at least, appoint fifteen male nurses in that hospital so that the patients can be properly looked after.

Then, Sir, Karnal is considered to be the most malarial area where a large number of people fall a prey to malaria which adversely affects their health. The Government should take steps to check it. Some time back, the Government opened a Malarial Research Institute over there. That institute should be run on proper lines so that it may be able to serve the people by saving them from this disease. For want of time, I cannot put forth more suggestions. With these words, I finish my speech.

Bhagat Gurdan Das Hans (Hoshiarpur) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Health to the fact that the condition of the Civil Hospital at Hoshiarpur is very deplorable. The hon. Minister will be remembering that at the time of his visit to this hospital, he had himself remarked after seeing its deplorable condition that it could not be called a hospital. I, therefore, submit to him that he should take practical steps to improve the condition of that hospital. Just as you have appointed an able Civil Surgeon and some good staff over there, good arrangements should be made for the supply of medicines and for a building. If there are no medicines in the hospital and no accommodation for the patients, of what use is such a hospital to the public ? If, however, the Government is unable to improve the condition of this hospital at Hoshiarpur, it should hand it

over to the Municipal Committee. The Executive Officer and the members of the Municipal Committee have themselves told me that if the Government cannot improve the condition of this hospital, it may very well be given over to them. They said that they would run it properly.

Then, my hon. Friend, Shri Atwal has urged upon the Government to maintain cleanliness in the cities. I would say that the Government is already spending a lot over the cities. Some care should be taken of the health of the rural people also. I ask, how much money would be spent for the improvement of the health of the rural people out of the total amount of Rs. 1,17,40,300 that has been set aside for the Health Department ?

Then, what steps have been taken for the betterment of the lot of the poor sweeper ? He is paid only Rs. 40 per mensem, but he has to be on duty for eight hours in the midst of muck. Cannot he be given some increase in pay out of this Grant ? I would submit that steps should be taken for his betterment so that he too may be able to give proper education to his children. He should also be provided good residential accommodation in which there should be proper sanitary arrangements besides the arrangements for the supply of electricity and water because he, too, is a part of our society.

Shri Jagat Ram Bhardwaj (Hoshiarpur) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I would bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that the streets of the Harijan abadis in towns and villages are so dirty and unclean that children cannot pass through them. During the course of my tour I was invited by the Harijans to go and see things for myself and I actually found that they were living in very bad surroundings. At some places one cannot stand the bad smell. I think the Health Department should give proper attention to these things.

My second submission is that it is not possible to get a correct vaccination report. It has been observed that whenever reports are made regarding the small-pox cases the Health Department takes action against those who make the reports. This is how the small-pox cases do not come to light. I think something should be done in this direction.

My third submission relates to hospitals. It has been said that new hospitals are being opened. But I am sorry to point out that a very small provision has been made for the indigenous system of medicines. In accordance with our indigenous system we can treat the patients with ordinary herbs which do not cost much. I have an experience of thirty years and am in a position to say that our indigenous system is a very useful system. There is no reason why we should not make use of it. Why should we import medicines from America and not make use of our own indigenous herbs ? I would suggest that we should set up Research Institutes to encourage our indigenous system.

The fourth thing is this that I happened to go to the Government Book Depot as I wanted to study the Health Report. In the United Punjab this Report could be had for only twelve annas but here the price of the 1951 Report is Rs. 42 and the price of the 1952 Report is Rs. 22-8-0. These prices are prohibitive. Something will have to be done by the Government as otherwise people will not be able to benefit from these records.

Shri D.D. Puri : Sir, I beg to move —

That the Question be now put.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Education (Shri Jagat Narain) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, it has been remarked by Principal Rala Ram that due attention is not paid to the patients who happen to be poor by the doctors in the hospitals. It is possible there may be a good deal of truth in what he has said but on our part we do our best to see that proper treatment is given to everybody. This is why I have ordered that a complaint book should be placed in every hospital so that we may know the grievances of the people. But I am sorry to say that nobody enters any complaints in this book.

Shri Nand Lal : Nobody knows that complaint books have been placed in the hospitals.

Minister for Education : But the Government cannot be blamed for that. The book is there. It is only if the people write their complaints in it that we can come to know of their difficulties ; we can't know them otherwise.

The second thing which has been pointed out is that the work of the subsidized dispensaries is not satisfactory. It has been said that the doctors charge for the medicines supplied by them as they give out that they are the proprietors of the dispensaries. But it is strange that the Principal Sahib has never brought this thing to my notice before, though he has met me a number of times. Anyhow, we shall try to remove this complaint.

Mention has been made by the hon. Members of the Ayurvedic system of medicine. Pandit Jagat Ram has also suggested that as the indigenous medicines are cheap, some 'Desi' hospitals should be opened. I may inform the hon. Members that twenty Ayurvedic and Unani hospitals have been opened this year. In a new Unani dispensary at one place which was opened only six months ago, more than five hundred patients have been treated. This is what the Government is doing.

Sir, many an hon. Member has placed suggestions before the House for the promotion of education in the State. They have asserted that more funds should have been earmarked for the dissemination of knowledge among the people but no hon. Member has made such remarks in regard to the Health Department. Previously, only 5% of the Budget was spent for the cause of education whereas this year I have been able to get 5 to 6% of the Budget for this purpose.

Mr. Speaker, now I cometo sanitation. The responsibility of looking after the sanitation in big towns does not lie on the Government but it is the duty of the Municipal Committees concerned. It would not be out of place to mention that Jullundur Municipal Committee has constructed urinals and latrines in that town. As a matter of fact, the Government should concentrate on the sanitation of the rural areas where the filth remains accumulated in heaps. If the hon. Members care to bring this fact before the public, the difficulty can be overcome easily but if they wish to leave this work to the Government in its entirety they are all aware of the funds which are placed at the disposal of the Government for the purpose. The Government would, however,

issue instructions to the District Health Officers to make frequent tours in rural areas to see whether adequate arrangements have been made to keep the localities in good sanitary condition or not.

Then, Sir, it has been suggested by my hon. Friend, Shri Ram Kishan, that the Jullundur Hospital may be converted into a Divisional Hospital. In this connection, I would like to submit that efforts are already being made to remove all the complaints of the people in this respect. No doubt, previously, there was a shortage of medicines in this hospital but in the beginning of January an adequate supply of medicines has been made which would suffice up till April next when a new supply would be made. What I want to submit is that the Government is doing all that is in its power to supply food and medicines to the patients. We are also trying to improve the general conditions of the hospitals. I admit that the complaints which the people have got against the hospitals are not without some justification, but the conditions have improved now. The difficulty is that even the rich people who can afford to buy medicines from the bazar exercise their influence and get costly medicines from the Government dispensaries. This ultimately results in trouble for the poor people. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to appeal to the hon. Members to give their special attention to this matter.

Then, Sir, Dr. Ram Swaroop has suggested that there should be some legislation for the compulsory maintenance of sanitation. His impression is that the people do not like to work without the fear of punishment. In this connection I would like to submit that being the Members of this august House we should make frequent tours of the rural areas and warn the people of the serious consequences of insanitation. As a matter of fact, we should set examples by doing work with our own hands. Despite the fact that the legislation for sanitation already exists people are so careless that they make their children ease themselves in the streets. If they are challaned, we people run to their help so that they may be let off this time. My submission is that we should not do everything under the fear of law. On the other hand we should realise our duty.

Then, Sir, one of the hon. Members has remarked that one Lady Health Visitors' Centre has been abolished. It is not to my knowledge but the Government has closed one Social and Health Education Centre because it was not doing any useful service to the State.

My hon. Friend, Bhagat Guran Dass, has made a complaint about the Hoshiarpur hospital. I admit that the hospital at Hoshiarpur is not a hospital in the real sense of the word. In this connection, I would submit that the Government has acquired land for the site of a new hospital and we hope to make a provision for the building in the next Budget. It is expected that a new hospital will be constructed within a period of two years.

My hon. Friend, Pandit Jagat Ram, has suggested that we should try to develop the indigenous systems of medicine. For this very purpose, we have already opened twenty new Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries in the State. He has also made a complaint against a vaccinator. I would like to ask him to send a report in writing to the Government so that a proper enquiry may be conducted into the matter.

Then, Sir, it has been said that the Health Report for the year 1951 costs Rs. 42 while that of 1952 costs Rs. 22-8-0. As I have no knowledge of this matter I can give a reply only after I have made an enquiry about it.

[Minister for Education]

My hon. Friend, Shri Benarsi Dass, has sent me a chit suggesting that mobile hospitals should be maintained in the State. In this regard I would like to submit, Sir, that we are already making this experiment in the Jullundur area, where one Doctor has started work under the Red Cross Society. The Government wants to see how far these mobile hospitals prove useful and if they prove beneficial the Government would open such hospitals at other places also.

An hon. Member : What steps have been taken by the Government to improve the lot of the backward areas ?

Minister for Education : Sir, at the time of opening twenty new dispensaries in the State the Government had issued instructions that the Deputy Commissioners, M.L.A.s, M.L.C.s and the Presidents of the District Congress Committees should among themselves decide where these new dispensaries might be opened. Instructions were also issued that preference be given to the backward areas in opening new dispensaries. Every district has been allotted two dispensaries and those are meant for the backward areas. (*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member : Were these instructions strictly carried out ?

Minister for Education : Yes. These instructions were strictly adhered to. Then, Sir, it has been suggested that the medical men in Government service should be debarred from private practice. This matter is already under the consideration of the Government, and it has received different suggestions from different quarters. The final decision would be taken in the light of the instructions received from the Central Health Council. Mr. Speaker, I have given reply to almost all the objections raised by the hon. Members, and now I resume my seat.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,17,40,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Medical and Public Health.

The motion was carried.

AGRICULTURE.

Minister for Education (Shri Jagat Narain) : Sir, I beg to move—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 51,22,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 51,22,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Agriculture.

Sardar Darbara Singh (Nurmahal) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, 85 per cent of the population of our State lives in the villages and directly or indirectly, it depends on agriculture. I wish to submit that the Grow More Food section of our Agriculture Department has not done any useful work. The tractors that this department has purchased are lying idle and with their help no barren lands have

been reclaimed. And, then, it has not given any account of the reclamation that was carried out by it in Village Talwandi of Tehsil Nakodar. I think, nothing has been taken care of there. Sir, the lands of Rahon and those of tehsils Nakodar and Phillaur situated on the bank of the river Sutlej which are lying barren at present, would have become productive had these been reclaimed. But these are not being reclaimed. Even last year, I drew the attention of the Government to this matter but nothing has been done.

Then, Sir, the common needs of the people can be met through the Agriculture Department but it is not meeting those needs of the people. If anybody goes to purchase cement which he needs for the repairs of his well or for some other purpose, he cannot get it. I, therefore, submit that the distribution of these things should be taken over from this Department and given over to the Co-operative Societies.

Then, Sir, I believe that so long as the system of co-operative farming is not started here, there can be no increase in the food production of the State. The production of holdings of two or four acres can in no case be increased. It is essential for such holders to cultivate their lands according to the system of co-operative farming so that their production may increase. Our Government must needs pay attention to this matter.

Then, Sir, the Assistants of the Agriculture Department after visiting the villages give reports to the effect that they killed rats at so many places and did this and that. But all this is wrong. I would like to inform the House that a man purchased ammonium sulphate worth Rs. 50 or 60 from a shop. At that shop was present at that time an Agriculture Assistant. That Assistant asked that man to give him in writing that he purchased the ammonium sulphate through the Agriculture Department. This is how these people work. The whole of this procedure is very defective.

Then, nothing is being done to fight the pest that attacks sugarcane. So far as the Sugarcane Farm of Jullundur is concerned, the whole of the sugarcane crop of that farm became a victim of the pest called ' top borer ' and was thus ruined. I submit that the hon. Minister should pay attention towards these things.

Then, Sir, the Agriculture College which has been started at Ludhiana should not be shifted from that place. If it is shifted from there, it would cause a good deal of loss. Besides, land can also be easily got for this college in Ludhiana.

Then, the officials of our Agriculture Department say that they have got many pits dug in the villages and have done a lot of other useful work. I submit that all these statistics given by them are wrong. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Development to these things, but he is not present in his seat. I hope that they will be conveyed to him.

Sardar Uttam Singh (Sri Gobindpur) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, ours is an agricultural State. 85 per cent of its population depends on agriculture. I, therefore, think that no amount of effort for the improvement of agriculture can be too much. It is manifest that the progress of this State is co-related with the progress of this Department. I, therefore, submit that our Education Department should make arrangements to impart training in agriculture to the students studying in High classes so that they may engage themselves in agriculture after the completion of their studies in case they do not get any service

[Sardar Uttam Singh]
and thus may be able to do good work for the improvement of agriculture of the State.

Besides this, efforts should be made to eradicate the pests which at present attack the various crops. At present, the gram crop in our State is affected by some pest. Similarly, the crop of sugarcane was affected by a pest of which nobody was aware. These pests have caused a lot of damage to the crops inflicting heavy losses on the peasants. Along with this the State has also suffered a loss.

Then, Sir, agriculture in the State can be improved with the help of manure. Only recently, our Central Government has started a factory for the manufacture of fertilizers or artificial manure. But no such factory has been started in the State, 85 per cent of whose population depends on agriculture. Our Government should make some arrangements in this respect.

Besides, it is very essential for the improvement of agricultural industry of the State that canals should supply water all the year round. Only then production can be increased. We shall not be able to increase food production with the help of canals which supply water only for six months in a year.

The standing crops this year are affected by fungus which has damaged one-fourth of the crop. This is due to the fact that the Agriculture Department has not supplied good seed. If this state of affairs continues, I submit that we shall lose whatever we have already gained in terms of agricultural development.

Therefore, through you, I request the hon. Minister-in-charge of the Agriculture Department to devise ways to destroy the pests which damage the crops so that the peasants may be in a position to save their crops from their attacks. I also urge that arrangements should be made to supply seeds of the best quality to the tillers of the land in our State. With these words I resume my seat.

Sardar Partap Singh (Mallanwala) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, what was required was that the Minister for Development should have been present in the House so that he could listen to whatever was said on the floor. However, in order to fulfil my duty I place a few things before you.

The first point is that the impression that ours is a surplus State and that we are now in a position to send aid to other parts of the country in their hour of food crisis is absolutely wrong. This is not the actual position. There is no denying the fact that our State is always at the mercy of weather conditions. I, therefore, think that it is necessary for us to adopt scientific methods for the agricultural development of our State. You can see the state of affairs obtaining even at present. Rains did not come at the opportune time. Had the rains come the yield of the crops would have been double or three times the actual produce.

The laws which are now a days being enacted by the Assembly are calculated to transfer the possession of lands to the tenants. In such circumstances, no landlord would like to invest money in purchasing agricultural machinery. Therefore, it is the need of the hour that the Government should organise co-operative societies of the peasants and give them loans to enable

them to purchase scientific implements for agricultural purposes. With the help of machinery the tillers of the land will be able to increase the yield of their lands, will be able to make both ends meet and will also help relieve the gravity of the food crisis. Then the loans, which the Government will give them, would serve a two-fold purpose. Firstly, the Government will get interest on the money advanced to them and, secondly, the peasants will be able to stand on their own feet.

Now, I wish to say a very important thing to the hon. Minister-in-charge of the Transport Department. At present, it is necessary for those who apply for a tractor licence to first get a car driving licence for a period of six months. I think that it is an out-of-date system. The need of the time is that licence for tractor-driving should be given to the applicant after giving him a trial test only. I think that the system at present in vogue is uncalled for and should at once be replaced by a new one.

Ammonium Sulphate is an absolute necessity for improving the yield but the difficulty is that it is available at a very exorbitant price. On this side of the border it is being sold at Rs. 18 per maund in the market while the same is being supplied to the peasants by the Pakistan Government free of charge. Its market rate in Pakistan is Rs. 6 per maund. Sir, my submission is that when a poor country like Pakistan can afford to make a free supply of Ammonium Sulphate to its peasants, is it not surprising that not to speak of free allocation, even that purchased here from the market costs three times as much as it does in that country ? I, therefore, urge that some concrete step should be taken by the Government in this matter, for it will give an impetus to its Grow-More-Food Campaign.

One thing more and I have done. Everybody is of the view that the country is in need of every grain of food in the present hour of its shortage. But it has been seen that the stray cattle damage lakhs of maunds of food-grains. I think we should not be sentimental in this matter. We have to augment the food production of the country. It is, therefore, imperative for us to make satisfactory and adequate arrangements to catch and detain the stray cattle which destroy the crops.

Shrimati Parkash Kaur (Ramdas) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I am greatly indebted to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on this demand. Believe me, I would not take much time. I would place before the Government for their consideration in a few words some matters concerning the welfare of the peasants and some difficulties which they have to face in their day-to-day work.

You may be aware that a 'Pohli week' (ਪੋਹਲੀ ਦਾ ਹਫ਼ਤਾ) is observed every year in the countryside. The hon. Members who have had a chance to visit the villages or those who live there know well how the "pohli" damages the crops. But not dilating much on this point and also not taking much time of the House, I simply wish to say that the time when this " Pohli week " is observed is not the right one. Its reason is that the ' pohli ' seed has already ripened at that time. Secondly, it has been observed that during that period the work is conducted in haste as new crops are to be sown. Less attention is paid by the people towards the destruction of 'pohli' as their entire attention is focussed on the sowing operations. The officers concerned also inspect only those fields which come in their way. No attention is paid by them to other fields. I think it their first and foremost duty to educate the

[Shrimati Parkash Kaur]
peasant in this matter so that the noxious weeds which cause damage to their crops are exterminated at the earliest. In this connection, I have to offer a suggestion to the effect that the zamindars should be instructed to cut down the 'pohli' when it is green and unripe and burn it thereafter. I also wish to impress upon the Government that all this should not be done for the sake of publicity but for improvement.

The second point to which I wish to refer is that a good deal of inconvenience is caused to the people due to the very frequent interference on the part of the officers in matters relating to the preservation of manure in pits. What do they do ? They visit villages with inch-tapes in their hands and raise objections if they find difference of even an inch in the measurements. Sometimes, the filth is ordered to be removed from a particular place and sometimes, they find fault with the work raising some flimsy objections. Those uncalled for objections waste a lot of time of the peasants. I urge upon the Government to remove this difficulty of the peasants.

In the end, I would like to make a reference to mechanised farming in our State. It has been observed that the people in the villages have bought tractors regardless of the fact whether the companies which have supplied them can afford them the necessary facilities in regard to repairing and supply of spare parts and this carelessness has landed them in various difficulties. In this connection, I suggest that to obviate such difficulties in future the Government should itself conduct negotiations and settle terms for the supply of tractors with the representatives of the manufacturing firms. I am of the view that in this way it will be able to give a fillip to mechanised farming. It would be better if not only spare parts are made available to them but a workshop is also established for the purpose of effecting repairs. This will also go a long way in easing the food shortage in the country. Today, the owners of tractors are faced with many difficulties because spare parts are not available even at Delhi, Ludhiana or any other place. With these words I resume my seat.

Shri D. D. Puri : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Question be now put.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That the Question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Education (Shri Jagat Narain) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I have noted down all the points raised by Sardar Darbara Singh, Sardar Uttam Singh and Shrimati Parkash Kaur and I shall forward these to the Minister concerned. As regards driving licences referred to by an hon. Member, I want to tell him that driving a tractor is much more difficult than driving a motorcar. We are prepared to accept the suggestion made by one of the hon. Members and the training period may be reduced in the case of those who know how to drive motor-cars.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 51,22,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Agriculture.

The motion was carried.

VETERINARY

Minister for Education (Shri Jagat Narain) : Sir I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,92,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Veterinary.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,92,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Veterinary.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Atwal (Nawanshahar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir. I have risen just to request the Government to open Veterinary Centres in villages instead of towns.

Shri Babu Dayal (Sohna) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I feel that the sum of Rs. 28,92,900 provided in the Budget for the Veterinary Department is too small. The number of cattle in our country is very large and as the hon. Members are aware large quantities of medicines are required for them. In their case medicines are not prescribed in grains and minims as is done in the case of human beings. A large quantity of medicines is required for the cattle as they have to be given chhataks or seers of these at a time. If the Government cannot provide sufficient money for the treatment of sick cattle, it should educate the people how to keep their cattle healthy. When the people have learnt that, less medicines or rather none of these would be required for the cattle ; in that case the amount provided in the Budget would be sufficient. People should be taught what food to give to their cattle and in what kind of houses to keep them. A provision has been made for medicines to be given to the cattle but no heed has been paid to the necessity of taking steps which may prevent disease among them. As regards the demand that more money should have been provided for the Veterinary Department, I beg to submit that keeping in view our meagre finances and the necessity of making the Five-Year Plan a success, we should teach the natural laws of health to the people. We have to make our country economically independent and raise the income of the people. We have to spend money on the execution of new schemes. The Veterinary doctors should teach natural laws of health to the people by observing which they may keep their cattle in a healthy condition. The doctors should be instructed to tell the people every Sunday at least as to how they should look after the health of their cattle. If the cattle remain healthy, the amount which is at present spent on purchasing medicines for them can be utilized for improving their owners' condition. If we improve the method of cattle-rearing they will do as hard work as those in other countries do and also yield more milk.

Shri Kanhaya Lal Butail (Palampur) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, the Veterinary Department is doing very useful work and medicine worth about an anna makes it possible to save the life of an animal worth four or five hundred rupees. In this connection, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the conditions prevailing in District Kangra. The number of streams in that district is very large and the annual rainfall there is very heavy. A number of diseases break out among the cattle in the rainy season but on account of the flooded streams they cannot be taken to the Veterinary Hospital. The Government must open one Veterinary Hospital at Nagrota as it will be able to serve fifteen or twenty villages situated in its vicinity. There is a great need for such hospitals in District Kangra where it becomes very difficult to take cattle to distant hospitals on account of the large number of streams there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,92,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Veterinary.

The motion was carried.

CO-OPERATIVE

Minister for Education (Shri Jagat Narain) : Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,84,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in the course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Co-operative.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,84,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in the course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Co-operative.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,84,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in the course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Co-operative.

The motion was carried.

INDUSTRIES

Minister for Education (Shri Jagat Narain): Sir, I beg to move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,37,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Industries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,37,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Industries.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh (Adampur) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few suggestions about the development of industries in the State. In the matter of importance industry is next to agriculture. Without industrial development in the country the economic condition of the people cannot improve. In my opinion, the amount provided for this purpose is too small. Moreover, great injustice has been done to the backward classes in the State. Industrial areas have to be developed in every town. Industrial plots have been reserved and auctioned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Guillotine will be applied at five O'clock. I shall try to accommodate all the hon. Members who rise in their seats in order to take part in the discussion but it must come to a close at five O'clock.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh : In Jullundur city, an industrial area was developed for the tanning industry five years ago. Many persons had applied for the allotment of land in this area out of whom only 100 persons were

allotted plots but subsequently in spite of getting payment from them the Government cancelled their allotments. The Government has not made any decision to allot plots to those Harijans who carried on tanning industry in West Punjab. The Government rejects this proposal on one ground or the other. I would request the hon. Minister to allot plots to the Harijans in the industrial areas.

ਮਾਰੀ ਧਾੜ ਚੁਮਾਰਾਂ ਤੇ

मारी धाड़ चुमारां ते

The Government is according a step-motherly treatment to the poor Harijans in the matter of allotment of plots. I would request the hon. Minister for Development that allotment of land may be made to the Harijans as early as possible.

Besides this, the persons who are engaged in cottage industries such as handloom and tanning are being put to a great hardship as they are made to pay Professional Tax which they consider to be inconvenient and harassing with the result that they are forced to leave these industries and take to some other work. I would, therefore, request the Government to issue instructions to the effect that the Professional Tax should not be charged from the persons who are engaged in cottage industries. This step on the part of the Government will promote the development of cottage industries in the State.

Shri Chandi Ram Verma (Abohar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, without taking much time of the House I would like to make a suggestion to the Government. It is this. There is need for revising the rules relating to industries in order to promote the development of industry in the State. According to the rules, a certain specified area is necessary for building a cotton factory. I would request the hon. Minister to re-examine these rules and lower down the limit of the area to some extent. For example, if a limit of 3 acres of land is fixed under the rules for setting up 24 handlooms, then if this limit is lowered to 2½ acres even then as many handlooms can be easily set up. I would, therefore, request that these rules may be revised.

Besides this, I would make another suggestion. Some people have taken to two industries. The second one keeps them busy during the off-season of the first. It is a sort of a second string to their bows. They carry on the work of handloom industry in winter and start ice factory during the summer season. Under the rules, the electric power which is sanctioned for running a handloom factory cannot be utilised to operate an ice factory. The result is that the electric power remains unused for six months as under the rules it cannot be utilised for any purpose other than that for which it has been sanctioned. Under these circumstances, there is need for revising these rules so that the electric power which is sanctioned for one purpose may be utilised for another purpose as well.

The third point to which I would draw the attention of the Government is the need for giving protection to the industries against unfair competition. It is generally observed that if any person starts a factory there is a rapid multiplication of such factories in the same town with the result that on account of unfair competition all of them fail. It is necessary that the Government should give protection to manufacturing concerns by preventing the mushroom growth of similar concerns in the same town and see that more factories are not established in any town if there is scope for only one. I shall be grateful to the Government if it, after giving full consideration, agrees to my suggestions.

Shri Rala Ram (Mukerian) (*Hindi*) : Sir, we are all anxious to remove unemployment in our country and the solution of this problem, I think, lies

[Shri Rala Ram]
in the development of industries. An hon. Lady Member has stated that Arts Colleges may be closed in the State and that the system of education is defective and is swelling the ranks of the unemployed. I would like to inform her through you, Sir, that if we look towards the other independent countries like England and America, we will find that this system of education is in vogue there and is also considered essential. There is one drawback in our education and that is that it is of the single-track type. There is no arrangement for imparting technical education in our schools. Sir, you will be surprised to know that the Government has provided a paltry sum of Rs. 18,000 only in the Budget for technical education on which so much stress is laid by us. It is the need of the hour that technical education be imparted in our schools but our Government is paying scant attention towards it. It is true that the Government is not in a position to start technical schools as it requires huge amounts of money to open such institutions. I think that unless the public come forward to lend their active co-operation we will not be able to spread technical education in our State. The prime need of the hour is that we should concentrate our efforts on the imparting of technical education in order to tackle the question of growing unemployment in our State. To provide a meagre sum of Rs. 18,000 for technical education is nothing but toying with this vital question. I would, therefore, request the hon. Chief Minister through you, Sir, that if he takes any steps to introduce technical education in our schools he should be generous enough to release ample funds for this purpose. The provision of Rs. 18,000 is quite inadequate and I hope that the Government will take steps to increase this amount.

Shri Lal Chand Prarthi (Kulu) (*Hindi*) : Sir, as there are only three or four minutes at my disposal, I would dwell upon two or three points only. Whereas in the programme of the reconstruction of our State agricultural development occupies the foremost place the second place is assigned to the industrial development. Perhaps, I have not been given more time to speak because I come from the backward district of Kangra. In regard to industries, I may submit that Kangra District is not backward but very much forward because it supplies a large quantity of raw materials for industries.

A very large part of our district is covered with forests in which trees from which pulp used in the manufacture of paper can be obtained are to be found in abundance. From these trees, pulp can be obtained in such a large quantity as to meet the paper requirements of the whole country. Even for those paper mills which are established at Jagadhri, 'baggar' grass is supplied by our district but besides the quantity consumed by these mills, a very large quantity—almost limitless—of this grass goes waste. If paper mills are set up in our district, the whole country will be benefited.

Then, there is no limit to the kinds of herbs which are to be found in our district. If pharmaceutical industry is started there, very good medicines can be manufactured at a very small cost, and if attention is paid to fruit preservation, our district can flood the markets of the whole country with delicious fruits of the best variety.

Our district has also got the wherewithals of the manufacture of rosin. Negotiations are afoot for the setting up of a factory for this purpose. If they succeed, a rosin factory will soon come into existence resulting in a considerable gain to the State. We produce lakhs of maunds of wool which feeds the woollen industries at Dhariwal. If a factory for the manufacture of woollen factories is set up in District Kangra, its poor people will be greatly benefited.

Besides these, Sir, our district abounds in minerals such as slate, copper, lead, silver, etc., of which a vivid description is given in Mr. Calvert's book entitled ' Silver Valley '. What I mean to stress is that there is no reason why industries should not be started in a district which abounds in raw materials and where labour is so cheap. If adequate attention is paid to this matter, not only will the wealth of the nation increase but a solution will also be found of the problem of unemployment, at least so far as our district is concerned.

However, Sir, it is a matter for deep regret that in the Budget under discussion this vital matter has been altogether ignored. We do hope that the Government will definitely provide money in the next Budget to finance the work of geological survey of District Kangra and to start industries therein.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,37,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Industries.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I really wanted to give opportunity to more hon. Members to participate in today's debate. Shrimati Sita Devi has expressed a very keen desire to have some time to speak but I am sorry to inform the House that the Rules do not permit the continuance of the debate any longer. I had forgotten all about it ; the Secretary has just drawn my attention to this Rule which reads as follows :—

On the last day of the days so allotted the Speaker shall one and-a-half hours before the normal hour of interruption of business, forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of the demand under consideration and shall then forthwith put one by one all the outstanding demands for grants.

I am helpless. So, guillotine will now be applied in respect of the remaining demands.

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 36,65,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Capital Outlay on Industrial Development.

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,04,58,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Civil Works.

The motion was carried.

CHARGES ON BUILDINGS AND ROADS ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,48,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of charges on Buildings and Roads Establishment.

The motion was carried.

ELECTRICITY SCHEMES AND MULTIPURPOSE RIVER SCHEMES.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 58,60,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Electricity Schemes and Multipurpose River Scheme—Watering expenses.

The motion was carried.

CHARGES ON ELECTRICITY ESTABLISHMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,12,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of charges on Electricity Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenditure.

The motion was carried.

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MULTIPURPOSE RIVER SCHEME.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 21,50,82,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Capital Outlay on Multipurpose River Scheme.

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS (CAPITAL)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,07,75,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Civil Works (Capital).

The motion was carried.

ELECTRICITY SCHEMES—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 94,30,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Electricity Schemes—Capital Expenditure.

The motion was carried.

FAMINE

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,20,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Famine.

The motion was carried.

ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 59,79,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Allowances and Pensions.

The motion was carried.

COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,75,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Commuted Value of Pensions—Capital Expenditure.

The motion was carried.

STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,26,250 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Stationery and Printing.

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,30,91,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Miscellaneous.

The motion was carried.

PRE-PARTITION PAYMENTS.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 15,00,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of pre-partition payments.

The motion was carried.

AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND RESEARCH.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 17,57,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Agricultural Improvement and Research.

The motion was carried.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT OF OTHER PROVINCIAL WORKS OUTSIDE THE REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 2,47,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Capital Account of other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account.

The motion was carried.

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON PROVINCIAL SCHEMES OF STATE TRADING

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 14,31,00,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading.

The motion was carried.

ADVANCES NOT BEARING INTEREST—ADVANCES REPAYABLE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 70,98,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Advances not bearing interest—Advances Repayable.

The motion was carried.

LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 2,77,56,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Loans and Advances bearing interest.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Friday, the 20th March, 1953

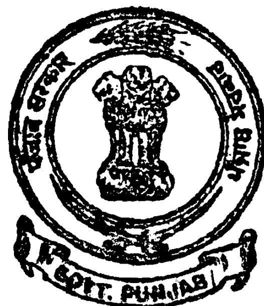
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20th March, 1953.

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 20th March, 1953

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 12 noon of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR (Dispensed with)

Mr. Speaker: Today the Question Hour is dispensed with. I call upon the hon. Minister for Labour to move his motion.

THE PUNJAB TOBACCO VEND FEES (REPEALING) BILL

Minister for Labour (Chaudhri Sundar Singh) (*Hindi*): Sir, I introduce the Punjab Tobacco Vend Fees (Repealing) Bill.

Minister for Labour: Sir, I beg to move—

> That the Punjab Tobacoo Vend Fees (Repealing) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, the Punjab Tobacco Vend Fees (Repealing) Act, 1952 was enacted by the President in the month of April 1952 because the Legislative Assembly was not functioning at that time. This Act was passed because the Government revenues had dwindled on account of less deposits of licence fees. It was, therefore, considered necessary to levy sales tax on tobacco to augment the revenues of the Government which may be utilised for the welfare of the poor-tobacco being a luxury and not a necessity of life. The term of the President's Act expires on the 16th April 1953 and it is because of this that this Bill has been introduced in the House.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

> That the Punjab Tobacco Vend Fees (Repealing) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shri Nand Lal: (Karnal) (*Hindi*): Sir, I feel it necessary to speak on the Bill now before the House because I have a great liking for tobacco and I hope that my hon. Friends who are smokers will also join with me in opposing this Bill. This measure seeks to repeal the Tobacco Vend Fees Act of 1934. According to that Act every tobacco vendor had to pay Rs 20 as a licence fee to the Government but now the Government propose to levy sales tax on tobacco. Last year a deputation of the tobacco vendors waited upon the hon. Minister Sardar Ujjal Singh and made him an offer that they were prepared to pay in a lump sum twice or thrice the sum of Rs 20 as Tobacco Fee but that they should be saved from the whims of the Inspectors. The hon. Minister considering their demand as reasonable asked the Excise Commissioner to examine their case but he was not agreeable to this proposal. I would, therefore, request the Government that keeping in view the difficulties of the tobacco vendors it should accept their demand. In this way the revenue of the Government would be raised to Rs 7 lakhs instead of 2 or 2½ lakhs of rupees and would result in greater gain to the Government than would accrue from the income alone realized from the levy of sales tax on tobacco. Besides this, the tobacco vendors would be saved from the interference by the inspectors. Unde-

[Shri Nand Lal]
these circumstances, I fail to understand why the Government feel hesitant to accept this proposal. The tobacco vendors had jointly made a request to the hon. Chief Minister also that the Government may charge the sales tax in a lump sum from them but they may kindly be saved from the day to day interference of the inspectors. The hon. Chief Minister had also realised that their demand was quite reasonable and deserved consideration. In this connection I may tell the hon. Minister that these petty shop-keepers are mostly illiterate and would not be able to keep accounts of petty transactions of a few annas. I would, therefore, request him to give his close consideration to this matter. He may enhance the licence fee by two or three times but should not for God's sake leave them at the mercy of the inspectors.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht: (Hassanpur) (*Hindi*): Sir, the Punjab Tobacco Vend Fees (Repealing) Bill 1953, now under consideration of the House, was first enacted in April, 1952 by the President. Now that Act is about to expire and this has necessitated the introduction of this Bill. About 10 or 12 years ago I had a chance of serving in the Excise Department as Excise Inspector and had thus watched the working of this Act. I am, therefore, in a position to say that whatever my hon. Friend has stated in regard to inspection of shops is not correct. Sir, tobacco is used by the people in three forms:—firstly, it is smoked; secondly, it is chewed with betel leaf and thirdly it is taken as snuff.

Sir, the fact of the matter is that nature is always anxious to expel dirty. stuff from the human body. If it is taken as snuff, one begins to sneeze, if chewed with the betel leaf, one feels like spitting and if it is smoked, one has to blow out smoke. But the pity is that man always tries to butt it into his body. In my opinion, the fees that are levied on tobacco vendors are quite reasonable. The more money the Government can earn from this source, the better.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) (*Hindi*): Sir, the use of tobacco has become so widely-prevalent in our country that it is high time the Government imposed some restriction on it especially so far as the sale of this commodity to juveniles is concerned. Some time back, a Bill to prevent juvenile smoking was passed by this Assembly. It is, however, a matter for regret that it has not been properly enforced.

From the point of view of the health of our countrymen, I think it is essential to levy a tax on tobacco cultivation like poppy cultivation, with a view to discouraging its production. But in the matter of levy of Excise Duty, we should not follow in the footsteps of the Britishers whose deliberate policy it was to encourage the use of intoxicants and harmful substances like wine and tobacco and thus to injure the health of the people. It is our duty to legislate measures calculated to improve the health of our countrymen. Keeping this in view, I would urge upon the Government the desirability of imposing some restriction to discourage tobacco cultivation.

Dewan Jagdish Chandra (Ludhiana City, North) (*Hindi*): Sir, the discussion that has taken place so far on this Bill, was not very relevant. It was in 1934 that legislation was enacted to provide for the licensing of tobacco vendors. But the present Bill is nothing but a copy of the President's Act passed in 1952. It has been brought with a view to repeal the Act of 1934 and abolish the licence fees chargeable from tobacco vendors. Since the president's Act will expire very shortly and the Government has decided to do away with the tobacco vend fees once for all, it is necessary to enact this legislation on a permanent basis, and hence this Bill. Transactions in tobacco will now be liable to Sales Tax, from which a larger income will accrue to the Government.

Those hon. Friends who are in favour of discouraging the use of tobacco may rest assured that the passage of this Bill will exactly have the same effect.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon (Jhabal) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have just a word to say in regard to this Bill. I wanted to suggest the complete banning of the use of tobacco but refrain from doing so lest this step should reduce the already slender revenue resources of our Government. All I have to say is that while the effects of the passage of this Bill on the use of tobacco are unpredictable, it is a measure which is called for and necessary from the administrative point of view.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Ambala City) (*Hindi*): Mr Speaker, I have a special interest in this Bill as I use tobacco in two of the three ways mentioned by my hon. Friend Shri Vasisht. Professor Mota Singh was pleased to advocate the banning of its cultivation even. If his suggestion is accepted, I am afraid the Government will have to levy some new tax to make up the resultant loss in its income and then, too, my hon. Friend will rise in opposition. We cannot have it both ways. Either tobacco cultivation should continue, or we should put up with the levy of the new tax.

Mr. Speaker. The hon. Member is not relevant.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan : Sir, as I am to be affected, I cannot help making a few observations with regard to this Bill. May be, it is true that the use of tobacco in any of the three forms mentioned by my hon. Friend Shri Vasisht is bad, though I myself plead guilty to using it in two of these forms. What we are anxious about is that those who come within the ambit of this legislation or upon whom restrictions are imposed are not put to unnecessary inconvenience. Who is not aware of the inconvenience that the public have to face in this 'inspectori raj'?

Minister for Labour (Chaudhri Sundar Singh) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, my hon. Friend, Master Nand Lal has referred to the deputation of tobacco vendors and the offer made by them regarding the payment of the Sales Tax in the form of a lump sum. The fact of the matter is that it will be on 31st March 1954, that we shall know the income that accrues to the State coffers from the levy of Sales Tax on tobacco. In 1950-51, the income that accrued to the Government from licence fees was of the order of Rs 2,15,650. From the levy of Sales Tax, Government hopes to increase its revenues by five to six lakhs of rupees annually.

Shri Nand Lal : Let the Government have thrice that amount in the form of a lump sum.

Minister for Labour : After 31st March, 1954, when the whole picture of the accounts is before us, it will be possible to say whether the suggestion made by my hon. Friend can be accepted.

As regards the question of inconvenience and botheration to the shopkeepers, I may make it clear that it is to be levied only on big traders whose annual turnover exceeds Rs 50,000 Then, Sir, tobacco is not a necessity without which one cannot pull on. It is used as a luxury, and there should be no objection to the levying of a tax on it.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Tobacco Vend Fees (Repealing) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Labour : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Tobacco Vend Fees (Repealing) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Tobacco Vend Fees (Repealing) Bill, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Tobacco Vend Fees (Repealing) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB PASSENGERS AND GOODS TAXATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1953.

Minister for Labour (Chaudhri Sundar Singh) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation (Amendment) Bill as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be taken into consideration.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have stood up to support this amending Bill. (*Cheers* from the Government Benches). I believe that the owners of lorries and trucks stand to gain considerably on account of the amendment that has been carried out through this Bill. The territory of the State of our Punjab extends over areas which surround pockets of Himachal Pradesh or Pepsu at a number of places. While passing through these pockets, the transport operators have to face a large number of difficulties. This Amending Bill will, to a large extent, remove their difficulties especially those relating to the registration certificates. But they have other diffculties also and they are more serious than those which are sought to be removed through this Bill. I think that, instead of bringing forward piecemeal amendments every time to remove the diffculties that have been caused to the transport operators due to the working of the Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation Act, the Government should try to win over their co-operation by removing all their difficulties in one single measure. Such a step will not only benefit them but will also go to increase the income of the Government. I do not know the amount of income that has accrued to the Government, through the operation of this Act. But this much I do know that this Act is the cause of countless abuses that are hurled at the Government by the transport operators. I think, these abuses are hurled not only at the Government but also at us (*Laughter*), because they are directed against the M.L.As. in general.

Mr. Speaker : This is beside the point.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Very well, Sir, I leave this point at this stage. I particularly wish to draw the attention of the Government to this fact that the Government omnibuses are free to load any number of passengers with impunity since there is no limit fixed for them.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is again irrelevant.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Sir, I mean to say that the Government should also make provision for these things in this Act. With these words, I support this Amending Bill.

Sardar Darbara Singh (Nurmahal) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have stood up just to make this submission that while the Government has provided this facility to the transport operators by bringing forward this Amending Bill, it should also make arrangements for providing some facilities to them in the offices of the District Authorities. There is so much of red-tapism prevalent among the clerks of the District Authorities, that they do nothing for the transport operators without the latter first greasing their palms. The difficulties that they have to experience in the offices of the District Authorities are far more serious than those which are sought to be removed through this Bill. I think that it would have been much better if these difficulties had also been removed through this very amending bill.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill caluse by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 1 stnad part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title ofthe Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Labour : Sir, I move—

That the Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh) : Sir, I introduce the Punjab Appropriation (No. 2) Bill.

Minister for Finance : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Appropriation (No 2) Bill, be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Appropriation (No 2) Bill, be taken into consideration at once.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Rohtak City) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I wish to invite the attention of the Ministers and other authorities concerned to two very important aspects of the Bill which is before the House to-day. In connection with the Rehabilitation Department and the compensation problem I wish to submit that it was more than two years ago that the question of re-settling 35 lakhs refugees and payment to them of compensation first came under the consideration of the Government. During the course of two years numerous Claims Officers were appointed and hundred of rupees were spent on

them. Countless claims were submitted and assessments made. The total value of the claims amounted to six crores of rupees. It was expected that some provision would be made this year in the Central Budget for the payment of compensation but our disappointment knew no bounds when we found that a paltry sum of rupees two crores only had been earmarked for this purpose and that also was unspecified. The Rehabilitation Minister of the Central Government had assured us that due attention would be paid to the interests of the refugees, still no substantial sum has been provided in the Budget. The result is that 35 lakh refugees whose life and death depends on compensation are very much disappointed. I think and perhaps the whole House will agree with me that it is a very sad state of affairs. I certainly appreciate all that has been done by our Prime Minister for the Punjab during the past few years. We are grateful to him and the Central Government for that. But I may tell him that the refugees have spent all that they possessed and are very eagerly waiting for the payment of compensation. Unfortunately nothing has been provided for them in this Budget. A responsible Officer of the Central Government has come to know that the Prime Minister is not prepared even to consider the question of compensation. I would request my Government that it should convey the feelings of this House and of 35 lakh refugees to the Central Government. The question of compensation is a very important one. It concerns people who have paid a very heavy price for the independence of the country. These people demand a hundred per cent compensation whether the necessary funds come through the imposition of a liberty tax or estate duty. Amends will have to be made to the refugees and nobody should shirk this work. Discontent is writ large on their faces, but it is not due to any spirit of rebellion. They are in a great distress. How can the parents see their children starving before their very eyes ? I earnestly desire that their demand and their sad plight should somehow be brought to the notice of the Central Government as I have serious apprehensions that their feelings may get out of their control. Some of them are already threatening a direct action. Though I do not agree with them yet I would say that steps be taken to solve the compensation problem as soon as possible. We should not hesitate to provide the necessary amount by way of supplementary demands for grants. The Punjab Government is in possession of a sum of rupees sixty or seventy crores for purposes of loans and it is possible to solve the compensation problem to a very great extent if this sum is transferred to the compensation account. By doing this no burden will be placed on the Budget. I would, in these circumstances, suggest with all the force at my command that the Punjab Government should convey our feelings in this connection to the Central Government.

Now I come to the lands which have been allotted to the rural people on a quasi-permanent basis. I think that this allotment should be made permanent as soon as possible. Unless this is done people will not feel satisfied and the production will not increase.

My third submission is this. The people having leases of houses, shops and factories have been served with notices and the date fixed is the 31st of March. I suggest that till the question of compensation is settled no rent should be charged from the refugees who have left large properties worth lakhs of rupees in Pakistan. This is what the Punjab Government can do with the approval of the Indian Government. Besides this hundreds of widows are being deprived of rations in several camps. This is bad. Similarly people living in mud-huts should be made owners of those huts. The Punjab Government can easily do this by making a simple declaration.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, not only the Opposition but even the Congress Members offered very strong criticism on certain items and gave notices of cut motions in the Budget for purposes of bringing about the general welfare of the public. But this Bill which is now before the House shows that the Government has neither cared for the views of the Opposition nor for those of Congress Members who had the interests of the people at heart. From this we can very well know the respect that this Government has for the demands of the public. This Government is following the foot steps of the Unionist Government so far as the rejection of the demands of the people is concerned. The Minister for Development was pleased to remark during the course of his speech that the Opposition would never say a good word for anything. But the facts are just the other way round. The Congress Government is not prepared to give thought to the reasonable proposals made by the Opposition and is only trying to hoodwink the people. It is really surprising that no attempt at all has been made in this Budget to make the people prosperous. We do agree that there are some good points too. Who does not want development of the irrigation schemes in the State ? We, as a matter of fact, desire that more funds should be made available for this purpose so that the agricultural industry could improve and flourish in the State. Who does not want to spend on Education ? But what we wish to submit is that so many good things which could have been done have been omitted from this Budget. This Budget does not change this agricultural State into an industrial State. It does not afford relief to those who need it.

Mr Speaker, the old reactionary system of bureaucracy is still in vogue and no radical change has been made in the top-heavy administration. It is really surprising that the Five-Year Plan of which the Government is so proud on the basis of which it claims to bring about prosperity in the State, remains absolutely useless and unprofitable, if the Bhakra Dam Scheme and other irrigational schemes were to be excluded from it. In fact no solid scheme for the improvement of industry has been included in it. If the Government makes sincere efforts to uplift the cause of education and industry in the State we promise to extend our full co-operation. It has been decided to spend an amount of the order of Rs 29½ crores in order to do good to the State under the Five-Year Plan. Out of this amount as many as Rs 13 crores are to be spent on the Capital Project from which no return will accrue to Government. Since, as I have already stated, the Five-Year Plan does not include any scheme for the progress of industry in the State it is not a plan in the real sense of the word. It is if I may be permitted to say so only a paper scheme. It would bring no prosperity to the people. It is, rather, meant to throw dust into their eyes. Neither the last Budget nor the present one includes any beneficial scheme for the masses. The Minister for Development has strained every nerve to convince the hon. Members that they have a good many beneficent schemes in their minds but I do not think that he would take any steps to implement them. Mr Speaker, we had suggested that land revenue on two bighas may be remitted but he satisfied us with honeyed words that he would organise co-operative societies for improving the condition of the kisans, and that he would supply a tractor to every kisan and save him from the trouble of whipping bullocks. He and his colleagues leave no stone unturned in making alluring speeches. They neither accept the suggestions made by the Opposition Members nor those by the hon. Members of the Congress Party. The result is that on the one hand no betterment is brought about in the condition of the people and on the other their attitude gives rise to unrest amongst them. It appears that the Government does not want to make any

basic change in the administration nor does it want to bring prosperity to the State. Mr Speaker, people are anxious to get education and they go to the extent of opening schools through private efforts. In this connection I would like to state that a private school has been opened in my constituency in Village Kalarh and the people have constructed a building for this purpose but it is regrettable that Government has not appointed any teacher in that school. (*interruptions*) I know that the Middle School for girls which has been opened in Jandiala is the result of the peoples own efforts because they themselves had raised funds for the purpose and constructed the building of that school. Their efforts merit admiration. If my hon. Friends adorning the Congress Benches read their previous speeches they would know the real structure of our educational system—the same old defective system which produced clerks. The education of English language is still compulsory and the Government does not want that our children should get education in their mother tongue. How convenient it would have been for the children if they were taught science and history in their own language but no attention is being paid to this matter.

Then, Sir, no provision has been made for the dissemination technical of education. But how can the Government make such a provision when it does not really want that technical education be disseminated among the people. You might remember, Sir, that during your school days while teaching history how vehemently our national movements were condemned by the teachers and the atrocities perpetrated on us during the British regime were glorified. I would like to state that nochange has been effected in our history books even now although we have attained independence. This is a great draw back in our system of education. In this connection I must say that no nation can make any progress unless and until its history is written and taught to its students on correct lines.

Mr Speaker, if you just look at the working of the University you would find that the same old Syndicate and the rusty bureaucratic structure exist there. The education is very costly and the students have to pay very high fees in order to receive education. Books are sold at prohibitive prices and the number of teachers in the school is not adequate. They are paid very meagre salaries. My submission is that education should be very cheap and as a matter of fact it should be free up to the Primary Classes. I must say that our educational system stands in need of a radical change.

Then, Sir, I have to remark with great regret that the language controversy is still presenting a great difficulty. Our present Government is adopting the same tactics as were used by the British Government to relegate Hindi and Punjabi to the back-ground. During that regime Urdu was taught in the Primary Classes and the people were not given any option to receive education in Hindi or Punjabi. This option, however, was granted to the people under the Sachar Formula. But what actually happens is this. If a bigoted Hindu teacher is appointed he tries to give importance to Hindi and a fanatic Sikh teacher is put in his place he tries to give importance to the Punjabi language with the result that the education of the children suffers. What I mean to submit is that this formula is a great hindrance in the spread of literacy in the State. I would, therefore, suggest that permission should be granted to the students of the Hindi-speaking area to receive education in Hindi and the Punjabi should not be thrust upon them. Similarly, the children of the Punjabi-speaking area should be allowed to get education in Punjabi. This is the only way which can help the development of our language. As a matter of fact our Government does not want that the Punjabi language should develop. This impression has given rise to unrest amongst the people. Sir, I would, therefore, like to draw the immediate attention of the Government to this matter.

[Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit]

Mr Speaker, now I would like to make a few observations in regard to the Transport Department. My own impression is that the Government does not want to spend any more money on the development of the industrial enterprise in the State and has embarked upon the policy of nationalising small industries which the poor people had started after disposing of their small holdings—the only source of their livelihood. As a matter of fact Government wants that its political opponents should be dispossessed of their small industries and their other sources of livelihood. Mr Speaker, a profit of 2 lakhs of rupees has been shown in the Budget under Transport, and a profit of 12 lakhs is estimated next time. We have to see, Sir, whether Government would succeed in getting a profit of Rs 12 lakhs. I think pure conjecture is tantamount to hoodwinking of the public. The fact is that Rs 21 lakhs are being realised from the private transport companies in the shape of taxes whereas Omni Buses have been exempted from the payment of this tax and if this tax is imposed on the Omni Buses also, the reality would come to light.

I beg to submit that the people cannot be crushed in this manner. Instead of nationalizing transport the Government should undertake some new schemes. The experiment of nationalisation of transport has already proved a failure. The private transport operators should be permitted to carry on this work through their co-operative societies because its nationalization will not make good the deficit in the Budget.

Then, Sir, a number of hon. Members referred to the existence of corruption. I submit that there are some definite causes for it. Take the case of the Education Department. The President of the State Congress is going to be given a sum of twenty thousand repees for writing a book entitled 'Katar'. We are fully aware of the fact that he is not a story writer. The only reason why all this is being done is that the State Congress Chief gave Congress ticket to Shri Diwan Chand Sharma, who was formerly a Mahasabhite.

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member should not discuss personal matters.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit : Very well, Sir, My submission is that corruption exists at the top and in support of my contention I would like to give proof. I am going to read out from a document a photograph of which is with me. The hon. Members might enquire as to how we get these documents. It relates to the year 1953 and not to 1949 or some other past year. A case of abduction took place on account of which a person employed in the Transport Department was dismissed. It is stated in this document that:—

*Mr Dalip Singh, Transport Inspector, was involved, along with six others, in an abduction case. His services were terminated while others were given minor punishments. He may be reinstated with those sorts of minor servitudes.'

This letter was written to hon. Shri Jagat Narain by the hon. Minister who cites quotations from Sawami Vivekanand. The Minister for Education forwarded it to the department. This is the state of affairs with respect to corruption. I, therefore, beg to submit that the Appropriation Bill should be prepared afresh and resubmitted to the House with the necessary changes. The Bill in its present form will not lead to progress in education, agriculture

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*Photostat copy of the ducument cited by the Member is kept in the Library.

or other spheres. Moreover, the scheme for nationalization should be given up and new schemes should be prepared in its place. I beg to submit that hypocritical sweet words will not mend matters. If the Government does not act in the desired manner the public will not return these Members in the next elections. (Interruptions).

Rao Gajraj Singh (Gurgaon) (*Hindi*) : Mr Speaker, a number of speeches have been delivered on the Appropriation Bill by the Members of the Opposition and by some of those sitting on this side of the House. Similar speeches were made at the time of general discussion of the Budget and when demands for grant were taken up. I think that we should examine this matter from a broader point of view, viz. whether the power of levying taxes is properly used and whether the revenues are properly expended. We should see whether the distribution of funds among different departments is fair or not. If while making criticism the hon. Members kept these considerations in view then they would be justified in whatever they said but if they criticised simply because they must find fault with everything done by the Government then their criticism would not be fair. The hon. Minister himself admitted that there were bound to be some shortcomings in the Budget because it is not possible to prepare a perfect Budget. In my opinion the conditions in the State cannot be greatly improved by making adjustments in the Budget. That task cannot be accomplished even with the entire amount of the Budget. Co-operation between the Members of the Opposition and those sitting on this side of the House is essential for progress of the State.

There are certain matters towards which I wish to draw the attention of the Government. Funds for the construction of a dam in District Gurgaon for improving means of irrigation there, have not been provided out of the revenue expenditure. These have been charged on the subsidy for the Grow-More-Food Scheme. The hon. Minister knows pretty well that capital works cannot be executed with the help of a subsidy for the Grow-More-Food work.

Then, Sir, recently, the District Board teachers went on a strike and as a result thereof the Government agreed to increase their salaries by five or seven and-a-half rupees per mensem. In this connection, I beg to point out that the District Boards prepared their budgets in January or February and they made no provision for about twenty or forty per cent additional amount which they would now be required to pay to the teachers. I shall request the Government to pay the amount which it has promised to pay in the form of grants so that the District Boards be in a position to pay the teachers dues. Similarly, the District Boards made provision for dearness allowance on the basis of the old rates and not on the basis of the new rates. They will, therefore, not be able to pay this allowance at the new rates except from the next year. Moreover, the financial position of most of the District Boards is not very sound. I am at a loss to understand how these will be able to meet the extra expenditure. For this purpose, Sir, I suggest a way out. It is this that just as in Simla the management of all the bus services, which are run by private operators or Government in the local and Suburban areas in the State, should be transferred to the local bodies. In this way if some routes are managed by the local bodies, it is likely that they may be in a position to augment their revenues. They will thus be enabled to meet their expenditure. Otherwise when I peruse the pages of the budget, I do not see any provision to this effect.

[Rao Gajraj Singh]

Apart from this, Sir, I submit that the responsibility to develop the rural areas lies with the local bodies. The Minister has stated that all the Municipal Committes and District Boards are given loans besides the usual grants because it is a fact that if any major work is to be undertaken it is only with the help of loans that this can be done. But so far as my own district of Gurgaon is concerned, I can confidently say that no loan whatsoever has been earmarked for this District for the last twenty to twenty-five years.

Then, Sir, I would like to submit that a vast area in my 'ilaqa' is such where not even the amenities of drinking water are available. The responsibility for making adequate arrangements for this purpose, has been entrusted to the Rural Sanitary Board. But I am constrained to remark that no provision of any kind has been made for the Rural Sanitary Board in this Budget for making potable water available to the people. Just as my hon. Friend, Shri Abhai Singh has drawn the attention of the Government to this matter, I would also bring this grievance to the notice of the Government that there is an acute shortage of drinking water in Rewari Tehsil. With a view to removing this difficulty, endeavours have already been made but with no results. The Government had ordered the department to carry out a survey of the area by undertaking boring operations. The officer concerned entrusted with the job submitted a report giving his own personal experience that not to speak of the non-availability of residential accommodation for him, he could not even get water for drinking purposes. In the circumstances, he asked how it was possible for him in the absence of such amenities to undertake the requisite work. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, you can yourself judge the plight of the people who are confronted with an acute scarcity of drinking water. For this purpose, as I have already stated, a grant used to be allocated to the Rural Sanitary Board. But it pains me to remark that one does not come across any such provision in the Budget of the next financial year. Therefore, through you, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this deplorable state of affairs with the fervent hope that he will certainly take some steps to redress the grievance of my district.

Another point to which I wish to invite the attention of the Government is with regard to the funds which have been provided under the demand relating to the Public Works Department for the construction of storage bins. Well, Sir, on the one hand we are told that the foodgrains in our State are sold at rates lower than even the control prices on the other storage bins are being constructed by Government at a very high cost for the storage of foodgrains. Why should this expenditure be incurred? My submission is that it is an unnecessary burden and after all, it is the State-Exehequer which is to bear this superfluous expenditure. Therefore, instead of spending this money on the construction of these 'storage bins', it should be utilised for constructing roads or undertaking other schemes of public good?

Then, Sir, new Girls High Schools are opened every year in the Punjab. More such schools are proposed to be opened even this year. But I regret to observe that not only in the Punjab but also in the whole of India, mine is the only district where neither any High School for girls exists nor any provision has been made in the Budget to open one during the current financial year. Despite the fact that the Municipal Committee has deposited a sum of rupees ten thousand which is considered enough for meeting the expenses of school for a period of more than one year and also despite the fact that the District Board has arranged a rent-free building for housing the school, yet no provision has

been made in the Budget for opening a Girls School in this district. But in each of the other districts more than two or three schools are contemplated to be opened. May I hope that the hon. Minister for Education will endeavour to make arrangements for the opening of a Girls High School in my ilaqa at an early date.

Besides, Sir, provincialised hospitals exist at each district headquarters. So far as the district of Gurgaon is concerned, an annual sum of Rs 16,000 has to be met by the District Board with a view to financing the District Civil Hospital. It is a hard fact that the expenditure relating to the headquarters hospitals is always borne by the Government. I fail to understand why this discrimination is being made in this case of this district.

Before I conclude, I would like to make a few observations with regard to the Cottage Industries. You are yourself aware, Sir, that my district was once a business centre of "Moonj Industry". But after the migration of muslims this industry has totally been ruined and now it is gradually being centralised in Rajasthan. I would urge upon the Minister for Finance the desirability of carefully examining the position regarding this Industry. I am confident that at least twenty to thirty thousand people can easily get employment, if this industry were revived. Besides, it does not call for any major investment of money in its re-establishment. If an incentive is given to the people, this work can easily be undertaken through the Co-operative Societies and the trade can be revived. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City—North-west) (*Hindi*): Sir, after a continuous discussion lasting about two weeks we are going to entrust a heavy responsibility to the Government by allocating crores of rupees to it for defraying the charges that it will have to meet during the course of the year ending March 31, 1954. Sir, just as my hon. Friend Shri Dev Raj Sethi has invited the attention of the cabinet towards an extremely burning topic of the day; I beg to associate myself with every word of what he has said about the sad plight of the refugees. I know that the Punjab Government as well as the Government of India have done their very best in the matter of rehabilitation of the displaced people from West Punjab during the last six years. True, they strained every nerve to rehabilitate them in one form or the other but there is no denying the fact that some lacuna does exist at some stage or the other which is responsible for the refugee problem having remained unsettled even till now. That lacuna is self-evident. For the last five years the eyes of forty-nine lakh people who were completely uprooted from and deprived of all their personal belongings in the West Punjab, have been focussed on the opportunity which they would get to become owners of their houses, when they would possess their own lands and, above all, when they would get some sort of compensation for the properties worth rupees two thousand crores left by them in the Western Pakistan. I am glad that the Central and the Punjab Governments have given sufficient financial assistance to the refugees from the West Punjab in the form of loans and grants which come to the neighbourhood of rupees one hundred and ten crores. I am also aware of the fact that they have made quasi-permanent allotment of lands and houses to several lakhs of people but the fact remains that discontentment still prevails amongst the people on account of non-payment of compensation. So, Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I would urge upon the Punjab Government to persuade the Government of India to decide the issue of compensation

[Shri Ram Kishan]
at the earliest possible movement. Apart from this, I may point out that the quasi-permanent allotments have not yet been made permanent even after the lapse of a number of years. Sir, if you just peruse the Indian Grow-More-Food Committee's report, you will find that it says that despite the fateful partition and innumerable difficulties and calamities which confronted it and also being erstwhile deficit food state, the Punjab is the only state which has not only become a surplus in foodgrains by its determined efforts but also has gone to the aid of other States in India which were in the grip of a food-crisis. The major role played in this remarkable achievement was by those poor peasants and uprooted persons who had come from across the border. In the circumstances, I would urge upon the Government to make permanent allotment of the properties which are at present in their possession. I am sure, it will go a long way in enthusing them to step up production in the State.

Besides, I wish to draw your attention towards another matter. True, the Punjab Government issued five lakh and forty-seven thousand allotment orders There is also no denying the fact that as many as three lakh seventy-six thousand of them have been received by the allottees. But the figures supplied to the Central and the Punjab Governments by the Department of Rehabilitation indicate that the possession of an area of one lakh seventy-one thousand acres has not so far been taken by about two lakh of allottees of land. Obviously there could be no other reason than that the land allotted to them is unproductive and barren.

Then, Sir,I wish to tell you that out of the total number of about forty-nine lakhs of displaced persons twenty-two lakhs and ten thousands people sought rehabilitation in urban areas. It is this section of the displaced persons, who having exhausted whatever little they possessed, badly stand in need of some compensation for their properties left in West Pakistan. Therefore, I would request the Punjab Government to settle this question with the Government of India. Pending any decision regarding the grant of interim compensation, the Government should at least suspend the realization of loans advanced to them. The hon. Members must be aware of the fact that loans amounting to six or seven hundred rupees advanced to some refugees are being recovered from those who stood surety for them. The figures reveal that in the Punjab 161,000 persons got 955 lakhs of rupees as loans. 9,200 persons obtained loans amounting to Rs 455 lakhs from the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation. The rest of the displaced persons got Rs 500 or Rs 700 or at the most Rs 1,000 each. The Government should settle this question with the Central Government as early as possible and suspend the recovery of these loans. The hon. Chief Minister and the Minister for Finance know that lakhs of refugees have spent all the cash that they were able to bring with them and have also sold the ornaments of thier women-folk. Unemployment in our country is on the increase. A few days back Mr Young's article on this subject appeared in the ' Hindustan Times " The report published by the International Labour Orgnization shows that unemployment in our country has increased by twenty to thirty per cent during the period 1949 to 1952. For this reason, too, this question must be settled at the earliest. On the 31st March 1949 a resolution was unanimously passed by this House requesting the Punjab Government to press the Government of India to accept responsibility for the partition and its moral obligation to compensate the refugees for the losses suffered by them. I want to draw the pointed attention of the hon. Minister for Finance to that resolution. During the last three or four years Shri Gopalaswami Ayyanger, Shri Mohan Lal Saxena and Shri Ajit Parshad Jain have been

holding out promises for settling the question of payment of compensation as early as possible. In the Budget for the current year, which Shri Chintamani Deshmukh presented in the Parliament, there is an item of Rs 205 lakhs which is perhaps intended to be utilised in the payment of compensation to the refugees in lieu of urban properties. But how can this problem be solved with that meagre amount This sum of Rs 205 lakhs may be used for paying some compensation to 31,000 or 32,000 widows and old persons. According to the claims admitted by the 261 Claims Officers appointed by the Government of India, the displaced persons had abondoned property worth 500 crores of rupees. Immediate attention should be paid to this important problem of payment of compensation. By passing this Appropriation Bill we are going to accord our approval to the expenditure of crores of rupees and I hope that every penny will be spent judiciously and for the good of the masses living in the State. At the same time I would like to request the Government that while spending money,executing new schemes or undertaking works for the development of industry and agriculture, it should bear in mind the observations made by Shri E.N. Mangat Rai, Finance Secretary to the Government, Punjab, in the Budget Memorandum. I shall read an extract for the information of the hon. Members.

> The budget may be described as one of promise for the development of the State The danger remains, however, in the accumulation of larger commitments ou the debt side. Some of the schemes involved will not bring a return for several years This position has to be continually kept in mind for the future and implies—
>
> (a) great care in the acceptance of fresh commitments, which further increase the debt of the State.
>
> (b) the need for going ahead as rapidly as possible with those schemes already under way; so that they are completed without delay and their returns made available to Government in the shortest space of time;
>
> (c) careful consideration of whether in future it is advisable to incur more expenditure on consumption, or whether a period of austerity......

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to say that the hon. Member is simply waisting the time of the House. Doesn't he know that the Finance Minister has got a copy of the document from which he is reading out that portion?

Shri Ram Kishan: Sir, I am not wasting the time of the House. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Finance to that particular portion of the Finance Secretary's note.

Mr. Speaker: The Finance Minister already knows about that. I would request the hon. Member to wind up his speech.

Shri Ram Kishan: Very Well, Sir. In this Budget sufficient attention has been paid to the need of developing industry in the State and the hon. Minister broadcast a talk on this subject a few days back. During this year electricity will be made available in the State and Finance Corporation will also be established. The Various irrigation schemes will increase agricultural production manifold—the production of cotton alone being increased by eight lakh bales. We should, therefore, prepare a scheme for establishing a sugar mill and a textile mill in the State. Fertilizer industry should also be established with the help of electricity that will be available. It is necessary to take such steps for removing unemployment from the State.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, I wish to refer to that demand which it is stated, would change the shape of the villages in the Punjab. On the day on which we staged a walk-out, some of the hon. Members said in the course of their speeches that we, the Members of the Opposition, had gone out because we could not offer any constructive criticism. I want to tell them that during the last interval in the Assembly Session I visited one of the Community Centres. Another hon. Member was also with me. The officer-in-charge of the Centre took us round and enabled us to see all the work being done there. I am thankful to him for the help he gave us. I visited a village where I was told that an approach road for connecting the village with the main road had been constructed. I saw the streets, the well and also the drain which had been constructed for taking away water. The Officer-in-charge explained the work which was proposed to be accompished in that Community Centre. It has also been explained in the booklet supplied to us by the Government. In my opinion these centres are doing the same work as has been entrusted to the Agriculture, the Co-operative, the Health, the Education, the Veterinary and the Consolidation of Holdings Departments. The Community Centres can better be described as the Rural Uplift Department. Let me make it clear that I do not mean to say that no work is being done at these Centres. Streets and drains have no doubt been constructed but it is not correct to say that this scheme will altogether transform the villages. So long as unemployment exists, the rural problem cannot be solved. In order to remove unemployment we should give land to the tiller but the Government is not going to do that thing.

Then, there is the question of cottage industries. Whenever something has to be done in this connection, the Government pays major attention to the handloom industry. It should be known that the work on handlooms is going to stop in Madras.

So long as heavy industries are not established, cottage industries cannot make any progress. The Government propose to start handloom industries but Mahatma Gandhi was of the view that handloom industries had become bankrupt and that the Central Government should concentrate its attention on giving an impetus to the big factories to produce more cloth. It has been stated on behalf of the Government that under the Community Project Scheme pacca streets and roads will be built in villages. These are all good things but I do not agree with the views of the hon. Members when they say that the village life will be revolutionised and the Communists will not dare to face the electorate in the villages. Sometime back I was informed by the Electricity Department that an Electric Sub-Station was going to be set-up in our village. Hearing this I informed my uncle that our village was going to be electrified. He replied, "we do not want electricity, the Government should first take steps to provide employment to the people". He was of the view that the village people would have to pay the charges of electricity every month and if they fail to do so their property will be attached and in such circumstances they will naturally prefer to go without electricity. What I wish to drive at is that the steps taken by the Government are no doubt commendable and I do not want to criticise it for taking such steps but to say that with the implementation of the Community Project Scheme the whole village life will be revolutionised and communists will not dare to go to villages is not correct. The village life can be improved by promoting the development of cottage industries on modern lines and taking steps to remove unemployment. Although the Government is taking steps to build pacca road meandering through the villages in Batala Tehsil yet how is it going to

help the people when with the perishing of industries, Batala itself is losing its importance ? If this is the state of things then of what avail would be this work of building roads in that ilaqa ? It would have been better if the Government had spared more funds for the establishment of industries and had helped the cottage industries.

The Government has provided Rs 83 lakhs for community projects in the Budget. Of this amount about Rs 6 or 7 lakhs will be spent on the establishment. I think that greater benefits would have been derived if the Government had placed this amount at the disposal of the panchayats. I would suggest to the Government that so long as it does not concentrate its attention on the development of heavy industries, the cottage industries cannot by themselves make any progress.

Then the Government has engaged American experts for planning the development of villages. I think that the Ford Foundation has extended financial help to India with this object in view that American may be able to make its propaganda in our country. It would have been better if this amount had been given to panchayats for the uplift of the villages.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Jullundur City, South-East) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the appropriation Bill is at present under the consideration of the House. Although I have had an opportunity of speaking several times during this Budget session but due to the short time at my disposal on every occasion I could not put forward all the suggestions to the Government which I wanted to make Now I would like to make two or three suggestions with regard to the Budget

The Government propose to sanction Rs 1,17,300 for Medical and Public Health. I have no mind to dilate upon this item but there is no denying the fact that, keeping in view the importance of public health, this amount is quite inadequate to meet the requirements. I would submit that in spite of our limited financial resources we should make determined efforts to give maximum possible medical aid to the people with whatever funds we have got at our disposal. Sir, I may point out to the hon. Minister, through you, that if Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic dispensaries are opened in large numbers, then medical aid can be made available to a large number of people as Homoeopathic medicines are definitely very cheap, and the Ayurvedic medicines are also cheaper than the Allopathic medicines. Sir, being a medical man, you must be knowing that for one injection a person has to pay Rs 5 as cost of the medicine and Rs 2 as the doctor's fee for giving the injection. A poor person can ill-afford to pay this sum. This fact has already been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister. If the Government gives some financial help to the Homoeopathic Hospital at Jullundur it can become a first-rate hospital. Perhaps this matter is under the consideration of the Government but it has not so far taken any decision on it. So what I wish to submit is that the Government should open Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic dispensaries in large numbers so that medical aid may be within the easy reach of the people. Although Allopathic medicines are very efficacious yet these are so costly that an average man cannot afford to buy them. In this connection I would like to submit that the hon. Minister for Health had once remarked in a public meeting at Jullundur that the Government proposed to start 32 new dispensaries at different places but the difficulty was that no doctor was willing to go there. From this it appears that the number of qualified doctors is very small and they even do not like to serve in the rural areas. Sir, it would not be an exaggeration to say that about 80 per cent people are

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

such as go to unqualified doctors for treatment. These doctors have formed an association and have been in correspondence with the Government for the last 3 or 4 years and are pressing for their registration on the ground that the Bombay Government have registered all unqualified medical practitioners under an Act. If our Government also takes steps to register these medical practitioners then the people in the Punjab can get more medical aid.

The Government may prescribe some qualifications such as experience or a test for the registration of such practitioners ; I understand that this matter is already under consideration; I would request the hon. Minister incharge to decide it at an early date. This is in the interests of the people living in rural areas.

Now, Sir, I want to refer to another important matter to which I could not draw the attention of the Government yesterday owing to the application of guillotine. If one goes into the working of the Buildings and Roads Department, considers the condition of the workers employed by it and compares it with the total amount of money being spenton it, one is likely to feel as if it is not being looked after by any Minister. But the pity of it is that the state of affairs in this Department is not bad despite this fact that a first rate person is in charge of it. Then, I am surprised to find that though the Finance Minister has applied cuts on many items of expenditure and has not spared the salaries of the Ministers even, he has overlooked this department altogether.

A sum of Rs 35,48,800 is being expended on this department annually; its staff has been multiplying ever since the partition. For the last one year, representation after representation has been sent to the hon. Minister to effect economies and spend the money thus saved on improving the lot of the low-paid workers but to no effect. Now, I would just mention the expenditure that is being incurred on the higher staff. Besides a Chief Engineer on whom this Department is spending Rs 4,26,000 annually, there are three Electrical Engineers whose salaries etc. account for Rs 1,23,200 five Superintending Engineers on whom the annual expenditure is of the order of Rs 1,94,760 and some Executive Engineers on whom the Government has to spend to the tune of Rs 12,73,200 per annum. In this way, Sir, lakhs of rupees are going to line the pockets of the high officers in the form of salaries and allowances. As compared to all this, the workers who are responsible for constructing roads and sinking tube-wells are being paid in a very niggardly manner. This reminds me of a servant who used to say that he and his master were drawing Rs 1,240, which meant that the servant was getting Rs 40 only. These workers are being paid no more than Rs 30 per mensem, and the strangest thing is that they have not been made permanent even though some of them have put in twenty to twenty-five years of service. They are not enjoying the benefit of Provident Fund not even of earned leave. Any one wishing to proceed on leave has to give a substitute otherwise the leave is not sanctioned. It is strange that though the work on which they are engaged, namely, the construction and maintenance of the buildings of jails, hospitals etc., is of a permanent nature, they are designated as work-charged or temporary staff. Several written representations have been sent to the hon. Minister in connection with improvements to be made in their terms of service but it is not known whether these were allowed to reach him or not since if these had reached him, he must have taken some action in the matter.

I have already explained, Sir, how top-heavy the establishment of this Department is. So there is much scope for curtailing the expenditure on it. Salaries of its officers are also too high. I can assure the hon. Minister that with much less staff, this Department can function much more efficiently. However, for want of time I cannot elucidate this point further.

There is another important matter to which I wish to refer today. I congratulate the Government on the steps that it has taken to nationalize road transport. The travelling public are heaving a sigh of relief and are quite satisfied with the facilities afforded to them by the Government operated services. This scheme of nationalization has met with considerable success. I was really surprised to find my communist brothers who are in favour of an out and out nationalization expressing their opposition to the scheme of nationalization of road transport initiated by our Government. In my opinion, nationalization is the panacea for all our economic ills and it should be extended to every sphere of public life.

After this, I have to offer a few important suggestions to the Government in regard to road transport, Firstly, in my opinion it is not advisable to levy a tax on passengers travelling in local buses because the income accruing to the Government from this source is nothing as compared with the curses showered upon it. If at all this tax has to be realized, from them, it may be realized in the form of a lump sum just as it is being realized from the truck operators. If the tax is realized in the same manner from private lorry operators also, they will be very happy. Now that the Government has got an idea of the revenue from this tax, there can be no difficulty in including the tax money in the fares. Then the people will not mind paying it and refrain from cursing the Government.

In the end, I would urge upon the Government to formulate a definite programme for the nationalization of road transport so that the state of suspense and uncertainty may end and the private operators may well know before-hand as to which route will be taken over next. This will also relieve discontent to some extent.

Shri Ram Chandra Comrade (Nurpur) (*Hindi*): Sir, it was Oliver Goldsmith who once remarked that tongue had been given to man to express his views but many a time it was used by people to conceal their thoughts. Similarly, Sir, intelligence has been given to man to discriminate between right and wrong and to follow the right path but some persons use it just to criticize others. I am just reminded of a well-known couplet written by Kipling.

Oh, East is east and West is west,
And never the twain shall meet.

While an hon. Member of the Opposition has offered constructive criticism, another hon. Member who was formerly with us but is now sitting on the Opposition Benches, has while criticizing the Government, lost sight of the constructive point of view. Criticism on all occasions, in season and out of season, can serve no useful purpose.

Sir, I want that this tendency should stop. I would appeal to my hon. Friends of the Opposition Party, through you, that they should try to look at every thing from a proper point of view and in its true perspective.

[Shri Ram Chandra Comrade]

Now, through you, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Ministers to some other important things. First of all, I would like to mention certain things relating to the Labour Department. I find that the Labour Department of the Punjab is in a very helpless condition. The labour of the country is unorganised to a very great extent. Even if the labourers have become a little conscious of their rights and difficulties, they have not become so organised and powerful as to be able to achieve their rights or get their difficulties removed. In such a state of affairs, it becomes the duty of the Government to protect the weak. But the condition of our present Labour Department is such that it, being weak itself cannot afford any protection to the labourers of the State. I see that there is an acute dearth of Labour Inspectors and Labour Welfare Officers over here. The hon. Minister should pay special attention in this connection. For example, you take Amritsar, which is a big industrial area. The number of factories there runs into hundreds and that of labourers working in them runs into lakhs. But what is the condition of the Labour Inspectors who are posted there? For one thing, their number is small and for another, if they receive any complaints, they are not provided even with a bicycle on which they can go anywhere to make an on-the-spot investigation into a case. They are not provided with any telephones either which they could use to contact the parties mentioned in the complaints. As a result, they have to go to the factory owners to make use of their telephones and have often to use their cars to visit the places where any dispute occurs, to enquire into the disputes of the labourers with the factory owners. Now, Sir, it can be realised that, when these Labour Inspectors have to depend on the factory owners for such petty favours, how can they safeguard the interests of the labourers. You know, Sir, that it is human psychology that if you would use things belonging to another, you would show regard for him. I would, therefore, submit that firstly, telephones should be installed at Government expense in the offices of these Labour Inspectors, and secondly, they should be provided with bicycles since all their work lies in the field. Thirdly, the number of these Labour Inspectors should be increased.

Besides this, I want to say that Labour Magistrates should be posted in big industrial areas like Amritsar where thousands of labour disputes occur, so that the labourers may be able to get justice in the labour disputes.

Along with this, I would like to submit that all the labour legislation should be applied even to the labourers working in the Public Works Department of the Government. Those poor people should also be given the benefit of labour laws.

Sir, the time at my disposal is limited and I have to make a number of submissions to the Government. Without going into minute details, therefore, I would touch only the points. With regard to the P. W. D., I wish to say one thing in particular. The contractors of the P. W. D. do not make full payment of the wages to the labourers. The poor labourer possesses no money with which he can file a suit against the contractor and get the help of courts to get his payment. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister that he should set up some machinery whereby the labourers should be able to get full payment for their hard labour.

I support the views expressed by Rao Gajraj Singh with regard to the teachers employed by the Local Bodies. Undoubtedly the Government took a proper step in enhancing the salaries of the petty Government Servants. But the question of the Local Bodies' teachers is still unsolved. I think, all

the municipalties and the District Boards do not enjoy such good income as would enable them to give effect to the full increase in the salary which has been announced. But if any local body is not in a position to give the full increase, the Government should at least pay its own share to the teachers. The inability of the municipalities should not stand in the way of the Government making payment of its own share.

Then I wish to draw the attention of the Government to another important matters. We find that roads have been named after the people who got high offices after the achievement of independence or some other memorials are being built to preserve their memory. But we have done nothing to commemorate those martyrs due to whose sacrifices we got our independence and power.

जितनी बूंदें थीं शहीदानें वतन के खून कीं ।
कसरे आज़ादी की आराइश का सामां हो गईं ।।
जिन्दगी उन की है नाम उन का है नाज उन पे है ।
जिन की जानें कौम की गैरत पे कुरबां हो गईं ।।

ਜਿਤਨੀ ਬੂੰਦੇਂ ਥੀਂ ਸ਼ਹੀ ਦਾਨੇ ਵਤਨ ਕੇ ਖ਼ੂਨ ਕੀਂ ।
ਕਸਰੇ ਆਜ਼ਾਦੀ ਕੀ ਆਰਾਇਸ਼ ਕਾ ਸਾਮਾਂ ਹੋ ਗਈਂ ॥
ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਉਨ ਕੀ ਹੈ ਨਾਮ ਉਨ ਕਾ ਹੈ ਨਾਜ਼ ਉਨ ਪੇ ਹੈ ।
ਜਿਨ ਕੀ ਜਾਨੇਂ ਕੌਮ ਕੀ ਗ਼ੈਰਤ ਪੇ ਕੁਰਬਾਂ ਹੋ ਗਈਂ ॥

In this connection, I have also sent a suggestion to the hon. Chief Minister., I hope that he would have taken it into consideration. But I want to give it a wide publicity. I, therefore, submit here also that Chandigarh should be named as 'Shahid Nagar.' In this way, the memory of those people also will remain alive who had to sacrifice their lives at the time of the partition of the country. This town is being built only to resettle the people who have come after sacrificing their all, both lives and property, at the time of partition of the country. I want to put forth this suggestion that the crossings of this town should be named after those organisations which were in the forefront of the national movement. The Bharat Mata Society, Gadar Party, Babbar Akali, Naujawan Bharat Sabha, Bal Bharat Sabha, Hindustan Socialist Republican Army, etc,. among those organisations, are worth mentioning. Besides this, the roads should be named after those distinguished men who took prominent part in the national movement. So far as the University Area is concerned, its buildings and roads, among others should be named after the late Professors Brij Narain and Madan Gopal Singh. After this I wish to thank the Government for whatever little help it has given to the political sufferers. Secondly I wish to make this submission to the Government that it should make arrangements for helping those people also who passed their B. A., examination from the National College in 1920 or after that. I think those people must be nearly fifty years old now but inspite of their ability, they are going about helplessly in search of livelihood. I would urgently request the Government to make arrangements for their employment and at the time of appointments to the Government posts, the necessary qualifications and conditions should be waived in the case of the graduates of the National College.

[Shri Ram Chandra Camrade]

After this, I want to draw the attention of the Government to another thing. It is this that the arrangements in the hospitals should be such that the poor should be able to get medicines. My hon. Sister Shrimati Sita Devi has put forth the suggestion for the opening of homoeopathic dispensaries. But I say, that even if the Government does not open any more new dispensaries it should at least maintain those dispensaries which already exist properly and improve their condition. I very well know that there are two dispensaries in the Kangra District at such remote places that they are never visited by the doctor simply because they are situated in backward areas. I would say that if you have started a dispensary anywhere, you must post a doctor there even if he is paid a higher salary on account of the backwardness or remoteness of the area. I hope that the Government would pay full attention to this matter.

Besides this, there is a great scarcity of potable water in the Kangra district. At some places, there is abundance of water and at others, water is scarce on account of stones and rocks. I suggest that the Government should set up a fund of at least Rs 50 lakhs for this purpose which should be utilized to bore tube-wells in the tehsils of Haripur, Nurpur, Hamirpur and Palampur so that the people may be able to get drinking water.

Then the Electricity Department promised to supply electric power last year to Nurpur town. But up till now, electric energy has not been supplied there. I would request the hon. Minister for Irrigation to kindly consider this matter and to make arrangements soon to supply electric power to the people of Nurpur.

As the time is very limited, I would finish my speech after saying just one thing more. Undoubtedly, the Government is trying to remove unemployment, particularly in the cities. But there is acute unemployment in the villages. I submit that the solution of this problem can be very much expedited if the present system of ownership and feudalism is abolished Moreover, the Government has already announced in this connection that rights of Ala Malkiat and Talukdari would be abolished. This announcement should be given effect to as early as possible so that unemployment in the villages may be reduced and the peasants may be able to work with greater interest.

RULING OF THE SPEAKER REGARDING PUBLICATION OF A WRONG NEWS ABOUT KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN, M. L. A., IN THE PRESS.

Mr. Speaker : It is within the knowledge of the hon. Members that Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan had brought to the notice of the House a news about himself which had been published in the papers. I thought it fit to consult the chairman of the Press Gallery Committee in this connection. He has been good enough to give his report by way of a suggestion. Our relations with the press have always been very cordial and except by mistake a wrong report has never been published. Generally speaking we respect the press and the press respects us. In these circumstances I would suggest that before an hon. Member brings any matter connected with the press in this House, he should bring his complaint to my notice privately. If possible I would try to settle things with the chairman of the Press Gallery Committee. So far as possible we should not do anything which is likely to spoil our relations with each other. I accept the suggestion that has been made by Mr. Bali and in future the hon. Members should first come to me in case they have any complaint against the press.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I wish to submit that Mr. Bali has no doubt made a good suggestion but then has not the House full powers in this connection ?

Mr. Speaker : No doubt, the House has all the powers. I have only suggested that if possible we should try to settle things informally. When this method does not succeed, the House has full powers.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan : Sir, I bow to all that you have been good enough to suggest but I must say that whatever harm could have been done by the publication of this piece of news to my person and the general interest of the country, has been done. Therefore....................

Mr. Speaker : You have started making a regular speech without knowing anything about the arrangements that have been made in this connection. The harm that has been done to you has been done to me as well. I would request you to drop this matter now and come to me sometime later.

RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSION ON THE PUNJAB APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL.

Sardar Darbara Singh (Nurmahal) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, the Opposition and some of the Congress members have expressed their views on this Bill. Some of my friends have made constructive suggestions but some of the oppositionists have as usual tried to make use of their "sting."

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member should withdraw this word.

Sardar Darbara Singh : I withdraw it, Sir. What I wish to bring out is that we should try to look into the spirit with which this Budget has been presented by the Government. I am to submit that the Government has made an honest attempt to make a good Budget for the State. For example, a provision of rupees 55 lakhs has been made for the low-paid officials and, if possible, further help would be given to them. It was in this spirit that the allowances of the high officers and two posts of Commissioners have been abolished. Similarly, I feel that the work done by the Government in the field of consolidation of holdings is very praise-worthy. It is sure to result in decreasing crime and disputes over boundaries. What is more the expenditure of the Government will go down and the general morals of the people will improve.

The Community Projects : The Opposition has questioned the achievement of the Government in this direction. I am to submit that a very good agency has been found for the development of our State. This work has not been started for adding to the coffers of the Government but has been taken in hand with a view to instructing the people to have recourse to self-help. It is not good to say that the Government has not to spend anything in this connection. In Batala a ten mile long road is being constructed by the people themselves. We wish to cultivate a spirit of service in the people and would have nothing to say against our critics if they were to do some constructive work. They are at liberty to go about and make people do some social service. There should be no harm even if they work under their different flags. We have absolutely no objection to the red or orange coloured flags. We shall have no objection even if they condemn the Congress when

[Sardar Darbara Singh]
They really do better work than ourselves. I may assure the House that nobody will be more pleased than myself if my friends work in this constructive spirit. (*Cheers*) . But I have come to know that my Communist brethren are never tired of saying in the villages that the Congress Government was not doing anything for the Harijans. It is really very sad. We are doing all that can be done for them. We are giving them, a share in the Shamlats, we are providing reservations in services for them and nobody can honestly say that we are not caring for the Harijans. It is not good to make such a propaganda. It has always been the aim of the Congress and Mahatma Gandhi to bring Harijans to the level of the others.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member, who preceded me, remarked that the Government had made two remarkable achievements which are in respect of Education and the Bhakra Dam Scheme. It is surprising that whereas he did not make even a mention of the Bhakra Dam Scheme, he has left no stone unturned to criticise the educational policy of the Government. Then, Sir, in regard to the nationalisation of Transport I would like to state, that my Communist brothers always insist upon every private enterprise being nationalised and kept under the close supervision of the Government. Now, Sir, the decision of nationalising Transport in the state is in conformity with their own programme because the object is that the interests of both the State and the people be safeguarded. But the difficulty is that if the Government acts as they like then they appreciate it otherwise they condemn the steps taken by the Government.

Mr. Speaker, I do wish that large scale industries may be established in the State and it is a question which needs immediate attention of the Government. How beneficial it would be if some sugar mills are set up in rural area. The kisans would be able to earn their livelihood by selling sugarcane to them. But this does not mean that my hon. Friends sitting in the Opposition should go on decrying the cottage industries by asserting that such industries are useless. They should not condemn the *Khadi* industry. This industry is far better than many of the large scale industries because through big factories only capitalists derive benefit whereas many labourers are benefited by this industry. Also it does not require a large investment I would,therefore, request them that they should extend their full co-operation to the development of the cottage industries so that the poor people may be able to earn and the problem of unemployment may be solved. I would also ask them, kindly to support this demand and desist from making destructive criticism. It is, however, a matter of satisfaction that they have admitted, although not with good grace, that the Bhakra Dam Scheme is a profitable scheme through which new canals will be excavated and the production of the country would be multiplied.

Sir, I would suggest that in the rural areas a corporation with the name of the 'Kisan Corporation" may be set up on the same lines as the Industrial Finance Corporation which would go a long way in ameliorating the lot of those people. They are prepared to advance money through Co-operative Banks and if the Government so desires sugar mills can conveniently be set up in their areas. Those poor people cannot make their both ends meet and feel difficulties in making the payment of land revenue. I would, therefore, again request the Government to do something practical to help them.

Then, Sir, a lot of mortagaged evacuee land is lying fallow in the rural areas. That land is of a very good quality because people can secure loans only on mortgaging very fertile lands. I would like to suggest that this land may be allotted to those refugees who have not yet been allotted any land

Six thousand acres of such land are uselessly lying along the bank of Satluj river in Hoshiarpur District and this land can be utilised for satisfying the pending claims. I would request the Government to give its immediate attention to this matter. I would also urge upon the Government to decide the claims of the refugees who have come from Bahawalpur state after obtaining the necessary records from the Pakistan Government.

Now, Sir, I would like to make a few observations in regard to the movable evacuee property, which was kept under the charge of the Recovery Committees. In this connection, I would like to quote the case of the Patwaris Institution where such property worth thousands of rupees is lying. Several tents and canopies are stored there in threadbare condition. In this connection I would like to request the Government please to give its immediate attention to this matter as I have come to know that the contractor concerned is trying to make all those articles scarce.

Sir, in the end I want to state that the poor refugees are in straitened circumstances and, as such, they cannot return in lumpsum the taccavis advanced to them. I would, therefore, suggest that the Government should recover those loans from them in easy instalments.

Sardar Khem Singh (Amritsar) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, perusal of the Budget shows that very large provisions have been made in it for the Police Department. The total amount comes to Rs 3,10,56,400. I know that the Government wants to protect the people through the Police Department just like a kisan who encloses his fields with a fence in order to guard it against any intrusion . I admit that the Government wants that the atrocities which are being perpetrated on the poor people should be stopped forthwith and the State may prosper. I am also aware that stirring speeches are made inside as well as outside the House that the evil of corruption is to be put an end to. But the fact is that this is the department where corruption is most rampant in all its branches. No doubt the Government has set up an Anti-corruption Committee but its existence is meaningless because its members do not possess any real power. The President of this Committee generally happens to be a Deputy Commissioner or some other high officer. When any case of corruption is brought to his notice, he indirectly tries to help the officers involved and does not like to take a deterrent action against them. If the Government really wants to exercise the demon of corruption from the State it should vest sufficient powers in the Committee to enable it to take severe action against the corrupt officers.

Sir, I have to remark with great regret that although the Government wishes to uplift the Scheduled Castes and raise their standard of living like that of the other classes of society, yet its officials do not make efforts to make this policy a success. They rather try to create obstacles in the implementation of that policy.

A Punjabi proverb goes

ਵਸਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਤੇ ਵਸਦੀ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਉਂਗਲਾਂ ਵਾਲੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਵਸਣ ਦਿੰਦੇ ।

वसण वाली ते वसदीं है पर उंगला वाले नहीं वसण दिन्दे ।

It is a fact that the Government does want to ameliorate the lot of the depressed classes but its officers who take pride in being the 'workers' do not implement its policy. If the Scheduled caste people suffer, it is not due to any fault of the Government which is doing its very best for their welfare

[Sardar Khem Singh]

Similarly, the Government announced that the quota for the Scheduled Castes in the services would be increased from fifteen to nineteen per cent. However, we find that hardly two or three per cent of the Government servants employed in various department belong to the Scheduled Castes. It is noticed that the big officers pay no heed to Government orders. The Government should see that its instructions are faithfully carried out.

Mr. Speaker, when recruitment to the Police Department was made in 1952 a person named Sewa Singh offered himself for one of the posts and he was selected by the Selection Board. The Medical Board found some defect in him for which he got treatment at the Medical College, Amritsar, at his own expense. When he was completely recovered, I wrote to the Chief Minister requesting him to appoint him to the post for which he was selected by the Selection Board. The hon. Chief Minister recommended his case but the officers did not appoint him. I request the Chief Minister to take that man at the time of recruitment which is going to be made in April next.

Mr. Speaker : By saying these things the hon. Member is doing great injustice to the House as well to the person whose case he is pleading. These matters should be discussed in private.

Sardar Khem Singh : Very well, Sir, I am thankful to you for your advice. I beg to submit that the police officers commit atrocities on poor people belonging to the Scheduled Castes. They manage to have pistols placed in their houses and arrest them for keeping unlicensed arms. The Government does not care to think that the members of the Scheduled Castes are so poor that they can ill afford to possess pistols. These poor people are challaned under Sections 109 and 376. In my district they are greatly repressed. If a case under Section 376 takes place and some members of the Scheduled Castes go to the police station to lodge a report, nobody records it. If they decide to institute private prosecution under section 376, either the case is not admitted or if it is admitted the Magistrate discharges the accused. In cases under section 498 maximum punishment is not awarded. The Government should devote immediate attention to the need of setting the matters right so that the members of the Scheduled Castes may not suffer and they may be able to lead respectable lives.

Sardar Nidhan Singh (Mehna) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, To rise again and again for catching your eyes is nothing short of a punishment for me. I beg to submit that Communist Members should be permitted to speak first because they have come to this House with a view to putting the State on the road to progress (*Interruptions*).

Mr. speaker, I am reminded of a story. A Mirasi once asked his wife to be vigilant as he was going to see celestial light that night. A pan was lying near his bed and while he was asleep his hand fell on it. It was besmeared with soot. When he rubbed that hand on his face it got besmeared with that soot. When he got up in the morning he enquired from his wife if she had seen the light. She replied that she saw a lot of it on his face in the form of soot. The same is the case with the hon. Members occupying the Government Benches. The light which they have seen is apparent from their faces.

Then, Sir, the condition of our Ministers is like that of a foot-ball.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should talk sense.

Sardar Nidhan Singh: We want the Government to spend more on education, public health and such other things which lead to progress among the masses but I find that a huge sum is spent on the police. As regards decrease in the allowances of big officers and the reduction in the salaries of Ministers which they claim to have effected voluntarily, I beg to submit that the Government has taken these steps on account of our persistent demand for doing so. As a matter of fact they did not want to reduce these. In view of this decision of the Government, the Governor too has accepted a cut in his salary.

Shri Naranjan Das Dhiman (Phillaur) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, all the demands incorporated in the Appropriation Bill under discussion reveal that the Government is trying to fulfil the promises which the Congress party has been making with the public from time to time. I notice that considerable effort has been made to accept the demands made by some of the Members in the Opposition. If the speeches delivered by the Members of the Opposition in the last Budget Session of the Assembly are perused it would be noticed that they asked for the salaries of the low-paid government servants to be increased and those of the high-paid officers decreased. They also demanded a reduction in the water-rates. The imposition of new taxes was opposed by them. The Budget for the next year which is before us shows that an effort has been made to give maximum relief to the low-paid employees. In the case of big officers their allowances have been stopped. Water-rate has been reduced and no new taxes are being levied. In short, the Government has tried to accept all their demands but I find that none of them has uttered a single word of appreciation about this Budget. In my opinion this is the best Budget since 1947. The Communist Party wants to see the people starving and naked.

The fact is that only that country abounds in an excessive number of the germs of this disease where un-employment, hunger and poverty reign supreme. And today, how can these people acclaim the Government when they have endeavoured to present such a budget which is calculated to kill such germs (*Interruptions*)

Now, Sir, I advert to a particular matter. I congratulate the Government on their very significant decision which they have taken in the matter of decentralisation of power in this budget. Apart from this, with your permission, I wish to urge upon the Chief Minister the necessity of posting a Resident Magistrate in the Phillaur Tehsil just as he has decided to appoint such Magistrates in the various tehsils of Ambala Division. I know that a representation had already been made by the people of that area in this connection. I am confident that he will give his careful consideration to this matter.

Chaudhri Mohd. Yasin Khan (Ferozepore Jhirka) (*Hindi*): Sir, in view of the shortage of time at my disposal I would like to confine myself to a few points only.

Mr. Speaker, the submission which I wish to make before you concerns those people of my constituency who have continuously been without houses for the last six years and have not yet been resettled. As a matter of fact it will be tantamount to an act of ingratitude if I say that the Government have done nothing substantial for the help of those people. No doubt, the Government has done a good deal in this direction. A part from this, in a meeting of the Joint Rehabilitation Board which was held on the 20th March,

[Chaudri Mohd. Yasin Khan]

1949, it was decided that the land will be restored to all the displaced muslims. Our Minister for Finance who also holds the portfolio of Rehabilitation did his level best to implement this decision. True, he undertook frequent tours of the areas, listened to the grievances of the people and recommended certain steps in order to ameliorate their lot. But despite all this, I feel that one-fourth of the work still remains to be done. My submission is that if you were to imagine the plight of those people who still remain unsettled for the last six years, you would realise how they feel. You should also consider how, under such dire circumstances they can live and procure means of subsistence for their families. Our hon Leader has many a time toured the areas previously inhabited by these uprooted people studied the plight of the people and said, "I am also one of those uprooted people who have left their hearths and homes in Pakistan but, I think that the miseries and misfortunes confronting those people who inspite of their being the residents of India are unable to take possession of their lands and cannot live in their own homes are of a very great magnitude." Besides, Sir, during the course of the last general elections we were assured that this matter would be thoroughly examined after the elections were over. I am of the view that the jury which is to take a decision about this is headed by the hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar, who has been championing our cause. We had every hope of our case being considered sympathetically and decided when this spokesman of ours was appointed a Judge. But it so happened that despite his, as well as the Finance Minister's persistent endeavours a large number of our Muslim brethren still remain unrehabilitated. Sir, what more can I say about their miserable plight. During the course of the census operations only those Meos were registered at Gurgaon who were actually living there. No census was taken of those people who had migrated to Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and other places out of fear. My submission, therefore, is that the condition of their being included in the census should be waived in their case so that the people who have been away from their homes for the last six years and are still away from their families, may return to their homes. Besides their ruined lands and damaged houses should be restored to them so that they might lead a life of peace and happiness. Today they are left with no means to fall back upon. Just think, Sir, in what sad plight they would be when they have neither been restored to their houses and lands nor are they provided with any other alternative means to earn their livelihood. Now they have only two courses open for them i.e. either to let ruination overtake them or put an end to their material existences. It will not be improper if I say that:—

न तड़पने की इजाज़त है न फ़र्याद की है ।
घुट के मर जाऊं, यह मर्जी मेरे सैयाद की है ।।

ਨਾ ਤੜਪਨੇ ਕੀ ਇਜਾਜ਼ਤ ਹੈ ਨਾ ਫਰੀਆਦ ਕੀ ਹੈ
ਘੁਟ ਕੇ ਮਰ ਜਾਊਂ, ਯਹ ਮਰਜ਼ੀ ਮੇਰੇ ਸੈਯਾਦ ਕੀ ਹੈ

This coupleaptly elucidates their present plight. We know that the hon. Minister for Finance also holds the portfolio of Rehabilitation. Most respectfully, therefore, I urge upon him to restore these Muslims to their houses and lands to which they have been denied access for the last six years. I may point out that the economic condition of many Muslims has become critical. The officers decline to accept the statements of the Muslims despite their producing sufficient evidence to prove that they did not migrate to Pakistan.

Sir, my submission is that if there is really some evidence with the Government that such and such persons went away to Pakistan and returned to the Indian territory without any permit, then it is justified in taking any action it chooses, against them but once Justice must be done to cases which are just and legitimate. It is a wrong policy to intentionally keep the cases pending. This action, on the part of the Government, has created a great deal of discontentment and unrest amongst those people. To remove this discontent and state of unrest from among them I would like to make two submissions to the Government. Firstly, they should be rehabilitated and secondly adequate arrangements must be made to bring over those people from Pakistan who have been away from their families for the last six years.

Then, Sir, I would like to submit that it was hoped that the instructions issued by the Minister for Finance in this regard will simplify matters but things have come to such a pass that:—

गए थे रोज़े बखशवाने, नमाज गले पड़ी ।

"ਗਏ ਥੇ ਰੋਜ਼ੇ ਬਖ਼ਸ਼ਵਾਨੇ, ਨਮਾਜ਼ ਗਲੇ ਪੜੀ"

In order to elucidate my point, I would just place before you, Sir, only a few examples. There are many people in our Community who possess lands at more than one place. But the pity of it is that instead of restoring them the possession of their lands at the different places the lands which are already in their possessions, are even being snatched away from them. I quote an example in this connection. There was a man in Village *Nangal Cawnpore* of Tehsil Palwal. In addition to his property in this village he also owned land in tehsil Ferozepore. He had the possession of the latter land for the last six years. But when he applied for the possession of the former land being given to him, the authorities concerned took away even his latter land. The fathers name of the applicant was "Gayur Khan". But since the police authorities had substituted in their report "Ph" in place of "y" and entered him in the name of "Gaphur Khan", the Deputy Commissioner rejected his claim. Now the position is that our people are too poor to file even appeals. Therefore, what I wish to submit is that the Government should immediately formulate such a scheme as will safeguard the interests of these people.

With a view to scrutinising their claims, the Government had appointed a special Tehsildar who was to do the work entrusted to him within a period of three months. The result was that in a hurry to complete the work within the specfied period, he rejected many an application. The reason for many applications being rejected or dismissed was that the claimants failed to produce the entries recorded in the chwokidara registers. I wonder how in such peculiar circumstances when the police and the military forces were in pursuit of them could they be expected to get their entries recorded in the register maintained by the Chowkidars. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to realise their difficulties. I am glad that ten thousand families have been rehabilitated at Gurgaon. But two hundred families still remain unrehabilitated.

In the end, I offer one suggestion and conclude my speech. In accordance with the practice at present in vogue, the authority of the Deputy Custodian is exercised by the Deputy Commissioner. It has been seen that a good deal of his time is spent in supervising and the launching of the Community Project activities. In the circumstance, I feel that this work can be accomplished only

[Chaudhri Mohd. Yasin Khan]

in case its responsibility is transferred to some other authority: otherwise we shall have to count seven years instead of six which have passed by now, before my constituents are fully rehabilitated.

Shri Sant Ram (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, it is after a long time that I have got an opportunity of expressing my views on the Budget. Those very things which my friends in the Opposition have been demanding have been included in this Budget. They always asked for the salaries of the low-paid employees being raised and those of the officers being decreased. When the Government did that thing it was the duty of these gentlemen to praise that act and to offer congratulations to the Government for its decision. On the contrary they have condemned this Budget. In my opinion it is an item of their programme to praise certain people and their acts and to condemn others on every occasion. When these gentlemen go to the villages they condemn Britain and America in their speeches made in the meetings held by them. This appears to be one of their chief aims. As against this they always praise Russia.

Through you, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to one particular matter. While deciding to increase the salaries of the low-paid employees it completely forgot one class of persons. The sweepers who work in the towns have to perform very dirty work and there is always the danger of their eyes, faces or some other parts of their bodies being infected with diseases. These persons are paid ten, fifteen or twenty rupees per mensem by the Municipal Committees. The Government should at least issue a circular letter directing the Municipal Committees to increase the salaries of the sweepers employed by them. This is a very important matter and the Government should pay immediate attention to it.

Now, I want to point out one of the difficulties of the people of my ilaqa. I belong to Dhuna which has no road connecting it with other places. The inhabitants of that village experience great hardship in the matter of transport. The population of that village is about twenty thousand. A stream which passes by that village has no bridge over it and when it is flooded in the rainy season the people find it hard to procure articles of daily necessity even. It is not possible to cross that stream in the rainy season even with the help of boats. A bridge can easily be constructed over that stream and I would request the Government to take steps to get the needful done.

My hon. Friend Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit said in the course of his speech and he has been repeating it outside too that certain industries should be nationalized. He has been asking for the nationalization of land but when we speak about transport industry he says that it should not be nationalized. In favour of his views he advances the argument that some agriculturists sold their lands for purchasing motor buses. Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut is also of the same view but I know that these gentlemen hold many shares in transport companies.

Now, I wish to say a few words about the letter whose photostat copy was produced by my hon. Friend Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit. Five or six persons were involved in the case referred to by him. All but one of them were discharged as they were able to get recommendations from some influential persons. Only one Harijan remained involved in that case because he had no supporter. Is it not the duty of us all to help poor Harijans ? Some of my friends of the Opposition say that nothing whatsoever has been done for the benefit of Harijans. They should not forget that some time back

some communalists tried to create unpleasant controversy over the Hindi-Punjabi question among these people. They wanted to arouse these people for disturbing peace and tranquillity in the State. As the Harijans were repeatedly asked by some persons at the time of the census to state Punjabi as their mother tongue, they thought that they were no doubt Punjabis and spoke Punjabi but there must be some motive behind the insistent demand made by those persons. Those who want to disturb peace in the State try to avail of every opportunity for achieving their end. These gentlemen go to the villages and ask the people not to pay land revenue or professional tax. They do such propaganda through loud-speakers with a view to bringing about a revolution. I want to tell them that the masses are patriotic and it is our duty to prevent them from being misled by false propaganda.

Shri Gopi Chand (Pundri) (*Hindi*) : Sir, my hon. Friends Shri Dev Raj Sethi and Shri Ram Kishen Comrade have dealt with the problem of displaced persons. They have voiced their difficulties in detail by quoting facts and figures. It is an admitted fact that inspite of the best efforts of the Punjab Government and the Central Government to rehabilitate the displaced persons they are even today in a miserable plight. When the hon. Minister for Finance undertook a tour of the backward *ilaqas* last year he saw with his own eyes that Punjabi refugees were squatting on the roadside and had no houses to live in. In view of such difficulties the people had made a request to the Government that the taccavi loans which they had got in view of the damage done to their crops on account of the failure of rains, should not be recovered from them. The hon. Minister had assured them that these loans will be remitted. Similarly Punjabi refugees are in an impoverished state. I would suggest that the loans of those refugees, whose claims have been verified, may be adjusted against these claims. Our Government should strongly press the Government of India to resolve the difficulties of the displaced persons.

Besides this, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister through you, Sir, that since the appointment of Forest Guards corruption in that department has increased beyond measure. If you go to any corner of the State I think you will hardly find any honest Forest Guard. These people challan the illiterate zamindars even while their cattle pass on the road and extort money from them by way of illegal gratification, and also take ' begar ' from them. Under these circumstances, I would request the Government that this work of Forest Guards should be entrusted to the Inspectors of the P.W.D. in addition to their duties of supervising the trees on the roads.

Besides this, I think that justice delayed is justice denied. It is frequently observed that cases in the civil courts drag on for a long time. It is a matter of common knowledge that illiterate persons take sufficient care to reach the courts before 10 O'clock on the day of hearing of their cases. But they have generally to wait for long hours and their cases are often taken up at 4 o'clock in the evening and they are directed by the presiding officers to come again on such and such a date. The Government should take steps to remove the difficulties of the village people in this regard.

Besides this, I would suggest that the electricity which would be generated from the Nangal Project should be utilised for the development of cottage industries.

The hon. Minister is aware of the fact that there were about 300 Fruit Preservation Industries at Lahore. These industries had helped to solve the food problem to a great extent. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister

for Finance through you, Sir, that he should take steps to encourage the Fruit Preservation Industries. We find that these industries are making great progress in other countries. I think that if the Government extend facilities to the displaced industrialists this industry can be revived to a considerable extent in our State.

Yesterday I had an opportunity to meet an artist on the Mall Road. That artist is England returned and is highly qualified. He has manufactured small toys of paper and cardboard and also small boxes which cost only 2 or 3 pice each and are sold in the market for not less than eight annas each. The Government should take steps to give training to small children in this art so that they may manufacture such toys here and prevent our capital from going to the foreign countries.

Moreover, scientific instruments and glassware are being manufactured in our State on a large scale. This industry has made a remarkable progress in the Ambala City. Similarly, our Government should take steps to start leather and toilet industries and should make a liberal provision in the next Budget for the establishment of such cottage industries.

So far as education is concerned, I would request the Government to take steps to provincialise the schools now under local bodies. It should also raise the salaries of the teachers serving in these schools. In my constituency there is one Sanatan Dharam Krishnanagar Middle School which is an uprooted institution of Lahore and inspite of the fact that it has made several requests for special grant or rehabilitation grant it has not received any financial assistance from the Government. I would request the hon. Minister for Education that he should kindly help us by giving some grant to this institution. Sir, without taking much time of the House, I would request you to allow me two or three minutes more so that I may be able to make a few suggestions more to the Government. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that there are vast stretches of barani land in my ilaqa and the people are very anxious that tube-wells may be installed there. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Irrigation that he should take steps to extend the electric connection up to village Pundri so that it may be possible for the zamindars to instal tube-wells in their villages.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I had no mind to participate in the debate today because I did not like to cause embarrassment and discomfort to my hon. Friends sitting opposite. They had left the House under protest and have come back after two days:so I did not feel like saying anything that might give them umbrage again, keeping in view the fact that whenever I rise to speak they get annoyed. But unfortunately they have made a serious allegation against an hon. Minister, which I consider it my duty to refute.

By producing a photostat copy of a letter, they thought they would be able to vilify the Ministers and say as to how can the Ministers who are so corrupt as to make recommendations by writing letters to the officers be expected to give a pure and efficient administration to the State ?

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker).

Sir, any sensible person who reads this letter with an unbiased and honest mind cannot fail to reach the conclusion that in it is truly reflected the heart of Chaudhri Sunder Singh, every beat of which is replete with intense sympathy and concern for the welfare of the Harijans. It is a pity that without trying to understand his temperament and disposition, our friends have shown indecent haste in drawing conclusions from the letter of which they are in possession of a photostat copy. This couplet aptly applies to Chaudhri Sahib's condition :—

चमन के रंगो बू ने इस कदर धोखा दिया मुझ को ।
कि हम ने ज़ौक़े गुलबोसी में कांटों पे ज़बां रखदी ।।

ਚਮਨ ਕੇ ਰੰਗੋ ਬੂ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਕਤਰ ਧੋਖਾ ਦਿਆ ਮੁਝ ਕੋ ।
ਕਿ ਹਮ ਨੇ ਜ਼ੌਕੇ ਗੁਲ਼ਬੋਸੀ ਮੇਂ ਕਾਂਟੋਂ ਪੇ ਜ਼ਬਾਂ ਰਖਦੀ ॥

In every session, our friends play some new stunt. From some lumber room they manage to get some letter or its photostat copy and try to prove that the administration is corrupt. Well, they will have to admit that persons who steal letters from Government offices are their bed-fellows and, Sir, man is known by the company he keeps. This shows the environment in which our friends live and move. It appears that they are always on the look-out for dirty things and are rummaging the gutters for this purpose.

Their view that the hon. Minister wrote this letter to save a Harijan Government servant from being dismissed is completely erroneous. So much more recruitment has been made in the Transport Department, could not the hon. Minister if he liked get him one of the posts ? The history of this case is like this. Six or seven Government servants living in the jurisdiction of the Sarhali Police Station were involved in an abduction case. The Police after enquiring into that case came to the conclusion that the case was so weak that prosecution could not be launched against them but they sent the case to the Government for departmental enquiry against the accused with a view to satisfy the complainant. Those of them whose conduct was found questionable were punished. One of them was a Harijan. He came to the hon. Minister and stated that he had been victimized simply because he was a Harijan. The hon. Minister who as I have already said has a feeling and a sympathetic heart wrote to his colleague—another Minister—saying that if that Harijan was not to be blamed more than the others he might also be given punishment of a minor nature. I was surprised to hear my hon. Friend sitting opposite expressing his strong disapproval of the action of the hon. Minister for Education in retaining that Harijan in service. Sir, the fact of the matter is that the case was sent by him to the officers concerned ' for comments '. Either our friends have not cared to read these words or else they have not been able to follow their meaning. May I ask them, how a Minister's action in sending a case for comments is objectionable? If a poor man goes to a Minister and complains to him about his having been victimised simply because he was a poor man and if that Minister were to write to his brother Minister to have an enquiry made into the matter, what would be objectionable in it ?

Sir, I want to declare it here and now that nothing will stop us from interfering in a case in which a poor man complains that he has been victimised by any officer. After all, what do we exist for ? What are the Ministers for ? Is it not a fact that a number of times our Communist and Akali brethren have been coming to us with such complaints of victimisation?

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

Have they not so many times come to plead with us to remove a punitive post from a village, even though the village may be one in which murders or a dacoity had been committed? Many a time, these hon. Friends write letters to us to help a man get justice. It is, therefore, surprising for us to find them taunting us for interfering with the work of administration. I may make it clear to them that we exist to help the poor and the oppressed people who are really aggrieved. We are there to serve as checks (*Cheers*).

Then, Sir, an hon. Friend has said that corruption will end only when the true representatives of the people will form the Government and sit in this House. I wonder what he means by the term 'true representatives of the people'. It is strange that now that they have won one more seat they have started saying that the people are with them and not with the party which has captured 99 seats. Have these 99 representatives not been chosen by the same people whom they claim to be carrying with them? If the people repose as much confidence in them as they claim, let my communist friends ask their leader who has been returned from Nakodar to vacate his seat and contest Gurdaspur seat which I am prepared to vacate. They will come to know how popular they are. (*Cheers*). A bye-election is going to be held in Kangra District very shortly. Its result will indicate whom the people like and trust. They should feel ashamed of the manner in which they carry on propaganda.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The word 'sharam' is unparliamentary.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : All right, Sir. I shall not use it in future. It is regrettable indeed that outside the House our friends talk in a different strain but when they come to the House they forget all that.

My hon. Friend, Mr. Chhina was pleased to see the progress of work in connection with the Community Project at Batala, when he went to that place along with us. I wonder why these hon. Friends talk in a different manner here and hesitate to admit what they admit outside the House. I don't say that the Government has been able to achieve all that was desirable but how can we deny that it is moving in the right direction and making sincere efforts to promote the welfare of the people ? What a pity that instead of extending their co-operation to us, instead of pointing out to us our weaknesses in a friendly spirit, these hon. Friends try to prove by producing photostat copies of letter that the Ministers are dishonest and corrupt persons !

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Like yesterday, guillotine will be applied today also at 4.0 p.m. If the hon. Minister for Finance wishes to make a reply, he should please let me know how much time he would require for this purpose ?

Minister for Finance : Since I have to cover a lot of ground, I would require at least one hour to make a reply. I need not mention that hardly one hour is left.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well, after the hon. Minister for Labour has spoken for a few minutes, the hon. Minister for Finance will be called to make his speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before the hon. Minister for Labour proceeds with his speech, I would request him to avoid going into poetry (ਸ਼ੇਅਰ ਸ਼ਾਇਰੀ) and try to be brief and to the point as the time left at our disposal is very short.

Minister for Labour (Chaudhri Sundar Singh) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I had no mind to deliver a speech today, but my brother Sardar Harkishen Singh has levelled a charge against me to which a reply must needs be given. Firstly, I thank him for trying to disclose my weakness. I take his charge in a spirit of sportsmanship. Secondly, I believe that Opposition is a healthy sign of democratic life and it does not weaken the Government ; on the other hand, it lends strength to it. (*Cheers*).

The case to which my friend has referred is really a case of abduction. But I receive hundreds of letters regarding the abductions of Harijan women. When I hear of the cases of abduction of the Harijan women, I feel sorry and pained. I think, such cases occur due to the moral weakness and poverty of the Harijans. But I cannot see Harijans becoming weaker still. I believe that a Harijan can rise only if he becomes morally exalted and strong. That is why I read the teachings of Swami Vivekan nd and through them I have to uplift the Harijans, and to help them. Swa i ji says that the more one helps the poor, the more strong he himself becomes and makes other strong. Anyway, so far as the case to which my friends opposite referred, is concerned a deputation consisting of a number of M.L.As. saw me some time back. This is an age of democracy. I listened to their point of view and also myself gave full consideration to the case. I arrived at this conclusion that that particular accused had suffered more hardship than the others. The other five or six men had been given lesser punishment and in that respect, he had been a victim of highhandedness. I, therefore, recommended leniency in his case. Whatever I have done, has been done with good intentions and I think that I took the right step by helping him.

My friend levelled another charge against me that I give quotations from the writings of Swami Vivekanand and Mahatma Gandhi. I believe that the teachings of Mahatma ji and Swami ji are many times better and nobler than the principles of my friends opposite who want to convert the country into a heaven through their revolutionary spirit and who believe in violence. We have to become strong by following in the footsteps of those great men and my friends should rest assured that I will give them tough fight in the political field on the strength of those teachings. (*Cheers*). My hon. friends try to show themselves to be very near the people. I may, tell them that they can never reach the people any nearer than Gandhiji brought us to them. (*Cheers*). Anyway, I thank my friend who tried to hold me responsible for the mistake which actually was no mistake. My friends may be considering it to be a mistake, but in my view it was no mistake because that help was given with good intentions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Now I call upon the hon. Minister for Finance to speak.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri : Sir, the House is to rise at 4.30 p.m. So there is a lot of time left and I think you can accommodate a few members more before calling upon the hon. Minister to make his reply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have already informed the House that at 4 p.m. guillotine will be applied and before that the hon. Finance Minister has to make a reply. He wanted full one hour for that purpose.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri : But will the Minister continue to speak till the hour of interruption ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No, at 4 p.m. guillotine will be applied according to the Rules, in which a provision exists that guillotine shall be applied half an hour before the hour of interruption. So, that provision will be followed.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri : Yes, it should be applied. (*Laughter*).

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, most of the criticism that has been levelled and the things said by my hon. Friends today on the Appropriation Bill are the same which were said at the time of the general discussion on the Budget. No doubt, a few new points have also been made out. First of all, I would like to place my views before the House regarding the most important point to which the attention of the Government has been drawn by my hon. Friends. This point is with regard to the compensation for the urban property left by our ruined and displaced brethren in Pakistan. They have not so far been given any compensation for their urban property. In this connection, my friends have expressed their views and have pointed out some thing which is a matter for thought and anxiety. It is this that the news reaching us through the newspapers show that a lot of delay is being caused in this matter. They have drawn the attention of the Government to this matter so that it may make efforts to get these displaced brethren some compensation for their urban property.

In this connection, I wish to make one thing quite clear. It is this that the Government is more anxious in this matter than my friends who have expressed anxiety. The Government is not only anxious but has also been making full efforts to solve this problem and its efforts are being continued even now. There is no doubt about it that this problem should be solved expeditiously. Our brethren who came here after leaving their land in Pakistan, have got some compensation, even though it may be two annas, four annas or eight annas in a rupee. But the Government has done nothing except the granting of some loans and the building of some houses for those people who have come here after leaving urban property and losing everything else over there. Nor have they got any compensation for their urban property which they want to utilise to stand on their own feet.

I think their anxiety in this connection is justifiable and their demand is correct. About six years have elapsed and they haven't got it. Why should they not get it? We need not go into the history of the case. So far as the zamindars are concerned, they have, at any rate, got a foot-hold on this side and recently a pact was signed with Pakistan for them. Several agreements were made for the transfer of urban properties but then no private exchanges could take place owing to the difficult conditions created by Pakistan. Very few exchanges were effected. Generally speaking people were not allowed to bring even their ornaments. The decisions are there but it is not possible to have our belongings. Exchanges have become very difficult. So many conference, have taken place. I myself took part in the Karachi conference in 1949. Thereafter numerous conferences were held in India but unfortunately no agreements could be made. When we came back from the Karachi Conference, Shri Gopalaswami Ayyengar called a conference of the refugee leaders and declared that compensation would be paid to the refugees. This declaration was made by the Indian Government with a full sense of responsibility and created some satisfaction in the refugee circles. A lot of time was taken in evolving a method for the payment of compensation and after that the Minister for Rehabilitation made two more declarations. Then a scheme was initiated as to how the exchanges should be given effect to, as there was no

hope of giving effect to the private exchanges it was decided that the Government should invite claims from the refugees. When the claims were submitted an estimate was made of the total loss. Here I need not go into details. Suffice it to say that the claims were submitted and verified. Now all the claims have been verified and we know how much property has been left on the other side of the border. What I mean to say is that quite a long time has been spent on this process. But then all this had to be done before taking up the question of compensation. The Rehabilitation Minister called a conference and placed the whole scheme before us. The Secretariat offered its suggestions and the Rehabilitation Minister approved the scheme. Now it is possible to say as to what can be done in this connection. Still it is difficult to decide as to what should be the contribution of the Government. The Muslims have not left sufficient property on this side and full compensation cannot be paid to our refugees till the Government of India makes an adequate contribution. We have all along in these circumstances hoped that the Central Government will surely contribute its share. It has been pointed out that nothing has been provided in this Budget for this purpose but it does not mean that the Government of India has no mind to make any contribution. We know that the Government of India has spent crores of rupees on the refugees and will surely help us even now. This question is being considered. It does not matter if no provision has been made in the Budget as the sum which has been given to us by way of loan will go a long way in meeting our demand if the same is transferred to our account. Sir, I wish to tell the hon. Members that every possible attempt is being made by the Punjab Government to solve the problem of compensation. I am personally doing all I can in this direction and shall lose no opportunity of urging upon the Government of India and the Rehabilitation Minister to do the needful. Even the Tek Chand Committee had made strong recommendations. I am in a position to assure the House that the Rehabilitation Minister Shri Ajit Prasad Jain is making all-out efforts to solve this problem. I, as a matter of fact, congratulate him on that. His last speech clearly shows that he feels very strongly for the refugees. Without explaining things at any great length, I would only say that the matter is being considered by the Cabinet and that some decision would soon be taken. In addition to what is being done by me, I must say that great pains are being taken by the Chief Minister himself. He has written a letter to the Prime Minister in this connection. So everything possible is being done. I can assure the House that the Prime Minister has full sympathy with the refugees and it is wrong to suggest that he takes no interest in this matter. Of course, I must admit that due consideration has to be paid to money matters and ways and means have to be found to procure money. But then I have no doubt that the Central Government will help us. We have only to exercise a little patience. This work is sure to begin soon. It has been suggested that the recovery of loans should be stopped till such time as compensation is paid. I may tell the hon. Members that the recovery of loans up to the extent of ten per cent has already been postponed. Of course, if the question of compensation is not soon solved we will have to think of affording further help. So far as rent is concerned, I think it hasn't much to do with compensation. I find that sometimes there are tenants who have no claims at all or that there are tenants whose claims are far in excess of rent. Still I am trying to do things in my own way with the approval of the Central Government.

As for lands, it has been pointed out that there are some areas which have not been allotted by the Government.

Mr. Speaker, the land of which a mention has been made by the hon. Member comprises of inexhaustible forest area and waste land which is often

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visited by floods and, as such, is unfit for cultivation. True that many claims are lying pending and the people have not been allotted land but I have to state in this connection that we have submitted all the facts and figures to the Minister for Rehabilitation, Government of India who has not yet been able to take any decision in the matter.

My hon. Friend has made a mention of the Bahawalpur refugees, stating that they are being unnecessarily deprived of their land. In this regard I would submit, Sir, that we have not received their record from the Pakistan Government. I do admit that the responsibility is that of our Government. Our Government had referred their cases to the Pakistan Government requesting that they should accord necessary permission to our officers to proceed to Lahore for bringing the record in question but no reply was received from that end. Lastly our Government had requested that Government to send their men with the record in question up to the border in order to enable our men to copy the necessary entries from there but that too proved of no avail. In the meantime our Government issued instructions that the allotments made in favour of the Bhawalpur refugees should not be cancelled and in this connection I would like to assure my hon. Friend Sardar Mota Singh that even if some allotments have been cancelled, yet if these have not been made in favour of any body else, the Government would have no objection before allotting the lands in question to await the arrival of the necessary record from Pakistan.

Next, Sir, objection has been raised that by nationalising the road transport the Government is meeting out a treatment of highhandedness and injustice to the poor lorry-owners and that it should nationalise large scale industries instead. I think, it ill behoves the hon. Members sitting in the Opposition to raise this objection particularly when they themselves are inclined to nationalise every industry of the State. At any rate, I would submit that ours is not the only Government which has taken the decision of nationalising this industry but this decision has been taken by every State Government and that too 2 or 3 years back. Besides, this decision was taken by the Government of India that if at all nationalisation is to be carried out it should start from the transport industry. Sir, I would like to assure them that the Government is not nationalising this industry with the motive of depriving the poor people of their only source of livelihood. On the other hand we are trying to improve the transport service in order to benefit the public and it is our strong desire that the people already engaged in this industry may not be thrown out of work. Because of this reason a scheme is under contemplation which seeks to set up a combined Corporation consisting of the representatives of the Punjab Government, railway authorities and the private lorry owners. The resultant benefit would go to all the three— Punjab Governmemt, railway department and the private lorry-owners. It would not be out of place to mention here that the Government wants to take this step by and by and that too after paying due compensation to the owners in every case. What I mean to submit is that the Government would never lose sight of the good of the public at large and would, therefore, request them to give their full co-operation to the Government in this connection.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Has any compensation been paid to the private lorry-owners from whom various routes have already been acquired ?

Minister for Finance: They have been given other routes in exchange those acquired by the Government. Sir, I was submitting that the Government does not intend to nationalise any industry without giving due compensation

to the owners. The hon. Members would be pleased to know that out of all the States of the country in which the transport industry has been nationalised our State has shown comparatively better results. Mr. Speaker, let me make it clear that there is no exaggeration in what I say but these are mere facts. In this connection I would like to state that in the year 1950-51 the net profit accruing to the Government was Rs 5,72,036, while in 1951-52 it rose to 8,10,008 and in 1952-53 to Rs 20,05,003 whereas the whole investment made by the Government in this undertaking was Rs 46,34,998. It is really creditable that the Government got Rs 30 lakhs as net profit on an investment of Rs 47 lakhs. Besides, the Reserve Fund provided for the depreciation of buses up to the period ending 31st March 1952 amounted to a sumof Rs 11,46,587. Another sum of Rs 10,00,480 has been provided for the next financial year. Thus the total Reserve Fund at our disposal is Rs 21 lakhs. My hon. Friends should rather be proud of the ability and experience of the officers who are running this enterprise. I would like to make it again clear to the House that the Government is not anxious to make any profit but to provide facilities to the people. It would be interesting to know that where the Government has constructed large workshops for the maintenance of buses it has also spent Rs 8,49,756 for providing adequate facilities to the public. It is a separate matter that in spite of the fact that Government is getting good profit out of this undertaking and the service too has improved, the hon. Members sitting in the Opposition are bent upon criticising the Government. Even then we are not anxious to nationalise this industry; we are only keen to arrange for the maximum facilities to the people and to provide them with work. Government has no intention of accumulating money in the State Exchequer but by nationalising this industry it aims at utilizing those funds for the welfare of the masses. If the private lorry-owners work in complete harmony I am sure that the Government would be able to achieve its objects.

Then, Sir, objection has been raised that Government has not done anything practical to ameliorate the lot of the teachers and that adequate grants have not been provided to local bodies consequent upon which these bodies would not be able to perform their duties efficiently. In this connection I would like to submit, Sir, that these remarks made by the hon. Member may be true in connection with the Gurgaon District but so far as the District Board Jullundur is concerned, I would like to state that it has earned a profit of about Rs 1,00,000. The same fact holds good in the case of the Ludhiana District Board. Then, Sir, out of an increase of twenty lakhs made in the salary of teachers two-third would be paid by the Government and I think it would be quite convenient for these bodies to pay the remaining amount. They can conveniently make a provision of 30 or 40 thousands for this purpose if they wish to do so.

My hon. Friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, the Minister for Local Government, has assured the House that he would try to make the District Boards pay their share. As regards the demand that the period of service of the displaced teachers in the undivided Punjab should be counted towards their total service, I beg to submit that the Government is following that principle and the District Boards have been asked to do the same. I am sure that they will also do so.

One of my hon. Friends said that there was no necessity of storage bins and the money spent on the construction of these would be sheer waste. I want to tell him that we have to store foodgrains. So long as the monopoly procurement scheme is followed, we have got to purchase and store foodgrains

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so that these may be rushed to places where on account of failure of rains or for some other reasons these are needed. Moreover, we have to store food for deficit States of India also and we are proud of the fact that we are in a position to feed them. We produce sufficient food and we want to store it. In this connection, I wish to point out that ten per cent of food is lost on account of its defective storage. The amount saved through the storage of food in the storage bins, which are being constructed, would more than compensate for the expenditure to be incurred on them. The amount of twelve lakhs of rupees provided in the budget for the year 1953-54 relates to the storage bins the construction of which had already been started. When these are completed we will require no more storage-bins.

My hon. Friend Shri Ram Kishan drew the attention of the Government to the Memorandum prepared by the Finance Secretary and said that the amount of loans which we have already taken or are now taking should not be such that we may not be in a position to repay them. As submitted by me in the course of my reply to the speeches delivered during the general discussion of the budget a major portion of the loans taken by us is productive and only a small part of it is unproductive . It is possible that a part of the amount advanced by us to the pepople may not be recovered. We hope that the whole amount will be recovered but all the same we have set apart a sum of forty-six lakhs of rupees to meet the bad debts and more money will be provided every year. This will enable us to meet the situation created by the non-realization of a part of the amount advanced by us . I am thankful to the hon. Member for drawing our attention to this matter. We are very particular that our State should remain solvent.

Some of my hon. Friends said that a very small amount was being spent on education and that the Government had taken no scheme in hand for spreading it. I have not been able to understand this objection. If my friends had taken the trouble of going through the Budget and the education Report, they would have found, that..........

Minister for Development : They do not consider it necessary to study these documents.

Minister for Finance : In my opinion they study these things and have opened an office for that purpose, but they read only those things which may help them in misleading the masses. I wish to tell the hon. Members that we are doing the maximum that our finances permit for spreading education in the State. The amount provided for education in the Budget for 1948-49 was Rs 163·57 lakhs but in the budget for the year 1953-54 we have set apart a sum of Rs 244 lakhs for this purpose. It means that we propose to spend Rs 41 lakhs more on education than we did in the year 1952-53. One of my hon. Friends has said that this included the sum of Rs 15 lakhs which is to be paid to the teachers on account of their increased salaries and that the Government was going to spend only 26 lakhs of rupees more in the next year. I beg to submit that the amount of fifteen lakhs of rupees referred to by him is going to be paid to the teachers and is not to be spent on purchasing raw material. We are spending fifteen lakhs of rupees on primary education. We opened 700 schools in the current year and propose to open 500 more every year. At present only 25 per cent of the children of school-going age attend schools but we want to make arrangements for the education of all the boys in the next ten years. We have increased the primary course from four to five years. Moreover, we have introduced co-education in the primary schools and the boys and girls will have to study together in these schools.

Then, Sir, it was said that more aid should be given to the private schools. We concede the necessity of helping these institutions but our means are limited. Some of my friends said that most of the private schools were communal and these should be closed. I beg to submit that in our State about one-third of the work of imparting education is being done by private effort. The Hindu. D. A. V. and Khalsa Schools are doing very useful work. I am not prepared to regard these as communal institutions so long as their doors are open to students of all communities. If any private school acts in a communal manner we will cancel its recognition. I might add that we have given Rs 2·75 lakhs by way of grants to the private colleges. Out of this a sum of 83,000 rupees has been paid to the recognised colleges and Rs 1,92,000 to the unrecognised colleges. In addition to it, a sum of Rs 54,000 has been separately provided for the Bhargava Municipal College, Simla. We have paid Rs 6,28,537 by way of grants to the displaced colleges and Rs 3,90,000 to the disrupted schools.

Then, Sir, the Central Minister for Rehabilitation has stated that all the refugee Schools and Colleges were asked to submit their claims with a view to finding out their exact number. They preferred their claims some time back. For purposes of verification a Committee had been appointed. It consists of two members, one from the Centre and the other from our department of Rehabilitation. That Committee has been minutely examining the cases of each individual School and College. I assure the House that all possible help will be given to them after the scrutiny and verification of their claims are over.

Then, Sir, my hon. Friend, Chaudhri Mohd Yasin Khan—he is not in his seat—has complained that no doubt, three-fourths of the Muslims who did not migrate to Pakistan and remained in India after the partition, have been restored to their houses and lands but one-fourth of them still remain unsettled. Had he been present in his seat I would have given him statistics for his information. However, Sir, I cannot help saying that right from its inception, this present Ministry devoted its special attention towards this matter particularly with regard to the four districts, Karnal, Ambala, Gurgaon and Rohtak, where a major portion of the muslim property had not yet been restored to them. Special instructions were issued to the District Authorities that immediate decision should be taken on their applications. For your information, Sir, I would like to submit that on-the-spot decisions were taken and properties restored to the people who were the inhabitants of Ambala and Jagadhri. Besides, a sum of money amounting to Rs 19,000 which the custodian had collected as rent, was also refunded to them. Besides, I may tell you, Sir, that out of the total number of 6,574 applications received at Gurgaon, the cases of as many as 4,894 have already been decided, 566 of them were rejected and 214 are lying pending. My hon. Friend is very well aware of the fact that I myself visited the Gurgaon area. In a conference which was held there and attended by me, my hon. Friend, and Maulvi Abdul Ghani, orders were passed on-the-spot in almost all the cases which were then brought to our notice and the properties owned by our muslim brethren were restored to them. The orders are also being issued with regard to those whose properties have not yet been restored to them. Nothing could be done earlier as their claims had to be verified. Therefore, the Government thought that no decision could be taken on such claims unless some special officer was appointed for this work. Accordingly a special tehsildar was deputed to complete the said work. That tehsildar was to function up to the 28th February 1953. We were of the view that all the cases would

[Minister for Finance]
be decided within this period. But immediately after his appiointment more applications began to pour in with the result that the volume of work increased to three to four times and it became obvious that the work would not be completed within the said peroid . My hon. Friend perhaps did not know that the previous orders were modified and the term of office of that tehsildar was extended to a further period of three months so that action could be taken on all the claims. There are 49 cases at Karnal out of which a complete report pertaining to two cases has already been submitted to the Government of India. There are ten such cases at Panipat, as well. These will also be expedited and their reports submitted immediately after they are completed. I admit that the progress of the work done at Panipat has been very slow. Special instructions have, therefore, been issued to the Deputy Commissioner to expedite the work and take immediate decisions in all the cases. Previously, it was necessary that in order to complete the enquiry a certificate of ***bona fide*** claim had to be obtained from the claiment but in the amended instructions which were issued in the month of December last another concession has been allowed and the authorities have been asked not to bother much about this. They have been asked only to complete the enquiry and send the cases to the Government of India. In view of these things, therefore, I assure my hon. Friends that the Government will leave no stone unturned in expediting the decisions on the cases of those muslim brethren who remain to be rehabilitated yet.

Then, Sir, inspite of the fact that a full day discuussion was held on the demand for Community Projects day before yerterday. The hon. Friends sitting opposite have again repeated their criticism on that.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit : We were not present in the House on that day.

Minister for Finance : Even if they were not present on that day they could not help speaking on it again today ; for it creates a special interest for them wherever the name of America is mentioned. Sir, I submit that the purpose of this scheme of the Community Projects is to uplift the rural masses. But perhaps these hon. Friends intentionally ignore the realities and refuse to understand the underlying object of the scheme. I think that otherwise, too, they may not be acclaiming the plan, for it not only aims at creating rural uplift but also bringing about enlightenment to the rural people. This enlightenment will enable them to break away for the influance of the Communists. I assure you, Sir, that our Prime Minister has given an impetus to this idea only in order to uplift the rural people, who are sturdy in every respect, so that they may attain progress in every walk of life. It is calculated to cultivate in them the spirit to mobilise all the resources to explore ways and means in order to promote literacy, raise their economic standard, construct roads, set up hospitals, make adequate arrangements for drinking water and undertake sanitation works in their respective villages. Then, Sir, it is equally important to shake off the slavish mentality of the masses which is the result of an age-old serfdom and create in them the feeling of a free people. It is also the aim of the Community Projects to induce such an idea in the minds of the general public. Besides, it is not possible that execution of each work should be entrusted to the Government. Unless the people themselves co-ordinate their energies in the venture of national reconstruction and unless they themselves take an initiative, all the schemes and plans, however beneficial they may be, will remain in the world of dreams. This scheme aims at inculcating in them a spirit of enthusiasm and courage, making them realise that they are

the backbone of the country and that they/are the real builders of the nation. Let me, therefore, make it clear that they should not construct it in any other sense. Let them rest assured that the way in which this scheme has been launched/and the progress that it has made so far, are sure to make it a great success. The example of the 'bund' being constructed at Narot Jaimal Singh is before you. Do we not feel encouraged to see/the people numbering five to six thousand strong, working selflessly and zealously for the accomplishment of this humanitarian task ? Apart from this, Sir, it is a matter for gratification that whereas the Government offer financial assistance, the people offer their manual labour. You would be pleased to know that the work which even the Government could not have accomplished within ten years, is nearing completion, within a small period of six months. Therefore, I wish to observe that the Community Project Scheme is rendering extremely valuable service to the nation and I am confident that our venture in this respect is sure to be crowned with success.

An hon. Friend of mine has remarked that the nation cannot achieve progress unless there is an all round agricultural development in the country. I quite agree. I am glad that a few hon. Members occupying the opposition benches are really interested in the development and prosperity of the State and they are anxious that our industrial and agricultural sections should be developed side by side. We also think in the same terms. But, at the same time, I am pleased to remark that no other state has achieved such progress in this particular direction as has been achieved by the Punjab. Sir, you would come to know of the extent of the progress which the Punjab has so far made if you happen to compare the statistics of various states of India. It may be stated that a sum amounting to Rs 67,00,000 has been given on loans to the peasants for the purchase of manure alone. The recepients of the loans have been allowed a further concession. They are free to refund it after their crops ripen or they accumulate the heaps of cotton.

Apart from this, I remember an hon. Friend laying stress on the necessity of opening Demonstration Farms with a view to achieving the cherished agricultural development of the State. He, of course, made a very sound suggestion but perhaps before making such an observation he did not confirm whether or not such a system was already in vogue. I would like to tell you, Sir, that we have already taken a step in this direction.

We have an experimental farm at Gurdaspur where experiments are performed in the production of cotton, sugarcane and paddy crops. The area of this farm is 263 acres. In addition to this we have got farms at the following places :—

		Area in acres
Jullundur		56
At another place in district Jullundur	..	440
Hansi	..	589
Ambala	..	99
Gurgaon	..	100

[Minister for Finance]

All these are experimental farms. We also have got some demonstration farms for demonstrating better methods of cultivation to the cultivators. Such farms are situated at the following places :—

		Area in acres
Karnal	..	99
Rohtak	..	100
Beas	..	36
Kangra	..	10
Ferozepore	..	23

We have got some seed-farms also for supplying good seeds to the agriculturists. These are situated at the following places :—

		Area in acres
Abohar	..	172
Sirsa	..	507
Kangra	..	98

We have got some other seed-farms and a potato-farm, too, but as the time at my disposal is very short, I cannot give details of these.

One of my hon. Friends suggested that just as we have the Industrial Finance Corporation, there should be a society for helping the agriculturist by advancing them loans. I would like to submit for the information of hon. Members that we are going to get a loan of thirty lakhs of rupees from the Reserve Bank of India in order to give loans to the agriculturists through the Co-operative Banks at a low rate of interest.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : The Government should help those people to whom money is due from a sugar-mill on account of the price of sugarcane supplied to it ?

Minister for Finance : If that matter had been under our control we would have surely helped those people in obtaining payment from the sugar-mill. The mill in question is situated in Pepsu and not in the Punjab.

In order to form an opinion about the work done by us for developing industry in the State the hon. Members should compare the amount provided for this purpose in the Budget for the current year with amounts provided in the previous years. Whereas in 1948-49 we spent Rs 16·54 lakhs on industry a sum of Rs 33·37 has been provided in the Budget for the year 1953-54. In other words, the expenditure on industry has almost been doubled. I want to assure the hon. Members that we are fully conscious of the necessity of developing industry in the State. It was said that there should be a big textile mill and a sugar factory in the Punjab. I am in full agreement with this view. Such factories will provide a ready market for cotton and sugarcane and the cultivators who produce these commodities will be able to get fair price

for their produce. For the opening of a big textile mill in Hissar we are having talks with a well-known firm. These negotiations have almost concluded and a mill will be started at that place. It will have one lakh spindles and two thousand looms. As regards the establishment of a sugar factory, I wish to state that the Punjab Government will be prepared to give as much financial assistance as possible to the person or persons who may like to start such factory in this State. We will give loan for this purpose. In this connection, I may point out that my talk on this subject with a reputed firm has almost concluded and a sugar mill will be established at Karnal within one year. Moreover, we are proud of our cycle-part industry in Ludhiana. Cycle-parts are being exported from Ludhiana to Madras, Bombay and other parts of India. We have provided a sum of Rs. three lakhs in the Budget for opening a finishing centre so that the cycle-parts manufactured in our State may be of such quality that these may be able to compete with those manufactured at other places. One of our most important cottage industries is the sports industry. After the partition, it was started at Jullundur. On a smaller scale it was started at Batala also. Sports goods are exported not only to other parts of India but to all the countries of the world and this industry helps us to earn dollars too. The Government of India as well as the Punjab Government are paying full attention to other cottage industries also. It would have been noticed that this subject has found a prominent place in the Five-year Plan. Cottage industries can be very helpful in removing unemployment from the country. Some of my hon. Friends ridiculed the hand loom industry. I want to tell them that at present not less than 70,000 persons are engaged in this industry. The Government of India has decided that certain items of cloth will be manufactured exclusively by the handlooms and the remaining by the mills. The handloom industry will be given full assistance. We have appointed some designers for assisting the weavers in the matter of designer of cloth manufactured by them. Co-operative Societies will be formed for the marketing of cloth manufactured by handlooms. Our existing marketing organization cannot do this work satisfactorily. We are trying to organize the weavers into co-operative societies so that they may be able to market their goods properly. As submitted by me at an earlier stage also, we are trying to develop cottage industries in the villages with the help. of electricity which would shortly be made available. We are going to get two cottage industry experts from Japan. We wrote to the Government of India to ascertain the terms on which such experts would be willing to come here. We have asked the experts to come here and are expecting their arrival. It may be stated that a sum of more than one lakh of rupees has been provided in this Budget for the development of the cottage industries. If I had sufficient time at my disposal I would have explained in detail the industrial and economic progress made by our State during the last four years. I have got the necessary data with me.

In the end, Sir, I beg to submit that we are doing every thing that is possible for enabling the State to make progress. So long as our State does not advance economically, educationally and in other respects, we shall not regard ourselves as having discharged our duties satisfactorily. Inspite of the criticism made by some of my friends, I am confident that our State will go on making rapid progress.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is —

That the Punjab Appropriation (No. 2) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is —

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

SCHEDULE

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Schedule stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE I

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, be passed.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 9 a.m. on Saturday the 21st March 1953.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

21st March, 1953.

Vol. I—No. 19.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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Punjab Legislative Assembly
DEBATES

SATURDAY, 21st MARCH, 1953.

Vol. I—No. 19.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla-4, at 9 a.m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR (DISPENSED WITH).

Mr. Speaker : The Question Hour is dispensed with today so that the hon. Members can have more time for discussion of the items appearing on today's agenda.

SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

Chief Minister : Sir, I beg to move—

> That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned till 2 p.m. on Tuesday, the 7th April, 1953.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : On a point of Order, Sir. There is no quorum ?

Mr. Speaker : According to Article 189(3) of the Constitution of India the quorum to constitute a meeting of this House is 13 members. I do not know on what basis the hon. Member has said that there is no quorum when more than 13 Members are present in the House.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

> That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned till 2 p.m. on Tuesday, the 7th April, 1953.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I rise to oppose this motion. We see no reason why all these days should be spent idly at the expense of the tax-payers. As a matter of fact there is absolutely no

[Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina]
need for such a long interval. I feel that we should not break till we have finished the whole business. Besides, the hon. Chief Minister has not specified any reasons for such a long break. I am afraid a lot of public money will be unnecessarily wasted on travelling expenses.

Then, Sir, today's agenda has been crowded with so many items that we cannot hope to get time for a proper discussion of any of them. I would, therefore, request the hon. Chief Minister not to waste public money unnecessarily.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, my hon. Friend sitting opposite has opposed this motion mainly on financial grounds. I may assure him and other hon. Friends that this break will not entail an additional expenditure of even one pie to the Government. Had the House been adjourned yesterday as usual, even then the Government would have had to incur expenditure on account of travelling allowance of Members. Since Saturday has been utilized a working day, the proposed break would not cause any difference in expenditure.

I need hardly say that it has become a habit with our friends to suspect and disbelieve us in whatever we may do or say. They seem to have overlooked the fact that legislative business has to be regulated as between the Assembly and the Council and that there are a number of President's Acts which will lapse if they are not passed by the Legislature at the latest by the 17th of April. For instace, there is the Land Tenures Act which has not yet been received back from the Council. It is for these reasons that the Assembly is being adjourned till 7th April, 1953 and then may I ask, what is the harm if incidently we utilize this opportunity to attend to something else also ?

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned till 2 P M. on Tuesday the 7th April 1953

The motion was carried.

EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE RULE "SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY."

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*): Sir, I beg to move

That the proceedings on the items of business set out for today be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of the Rule "Sittings of the Assembly."

Sir, through this motion we want to have the permission of the House to continue to sit until the whole business on the agenda is disposed of. The reason for transacting all this business today is the same that I have already stated in another connection. A number of measures which at present exist on the Stutute Book in the form of President's Acts are likely to lapse unless they are re-enacted by the Legislature without delay. I hope the hon. Members will not mind this trouble. Moreover, the adoption of this motion will ensure fuller utilization of public time and money about which some hon. Friends have expressed their great keenness. This motion has been moved specifically with a view to make the fullest possible use of the time.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

> That the proceedings on the items of business set out for today be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of the Rule "Sittings of the Assembly ".

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Sir I rise to oppose this motion because we cannot acquiesce in Government's desire to rush through and pass all these important Bills at a single sitting. It is not fair either to the House or to the people who are to be affected by the passage of these measures to rush through them especially when a very large number of hon. Members are not present. In the absence of so many members and also owing to the crowding of the agenda, it would not be possible to give full consideration to the various amendments, notices of which have been given or may be given. If it is so very necessary to pass these measures as early as possible, the Assembly should not adjourn for a break today and hold two or three sittings to transact all this legislature business. Why this undue haste ?

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, it is a matter for regret that my hon. Friends make contradictory demands. A short while ago, they were objecting to the adjournment of the Assembly for some now that we are accepting their proposal of course in a somewhat different form, they are again raising objections. The object of this motion is that the House may continue to sit today, tomorrow or the day after and not adjourn until every item on the agenda has been fully discussed and thrashed out. We shall, of course, continue to sit and if our hon. Friends opposite leave things in the middle, the fault will be theirs. Public will then come to know how solicitous they are about their welfare and what interest they take in legislative work. Let them if they like, continue to sit for 24 hours. This motion has been moved only to satisfy them.

Mr Speaker. Question is –

That the proceedings on the items of business set out for today be exempted at this day's sitting from the provision of the Rule "Sittings of the Assembly"

The motion was carried.

REMARKS BY SPEAKER REGARDING PRIVILEGE MOTION MOVED BY SHRI ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN.

Mr. Speaker : Now I would like to say something in regard to the privilege motion which was moved by Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan day before yesterday. As the house is aware, this complaint had been referred to Shri A. C. Bali, Chairman of the Press Gallery Committee. I am glad to inform the house that he inquired into it in a very proper manner. A very satisfactory and an amicable settlement was reached on the points at issue. Yesterday Shri Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Shri Bali and the Press Reporter concerned came to my room where the matter was discussed. The Pressmen, however, desire that if any hon. Member feels aggrieved over the publication of a report of any of his speeches in any newspaper he may have a talk with Shri Bali before raising the matter on the floor of the house.

EAST PUNJAB UTILIZATION OF LANDS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) : Sir, I introduce the East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill 1953.

Mr. Speaker: May I know from the hon. Ministers whether this Bill was introduced in the Legislative Council ?

Minister for Development : Yes, please.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to point out that Article 207 of the Constitution of India clearly lays down that Financial Bills cannot be introduced in a Legislative Council

Minister for Development : You may kindly overlook that mistake. This Bill will be sent to the Council after it has been passed the by Legislative Assembly.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move –

That the East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, it is a very innocuous amending measure. Its object is that the expenditure incurred by the Government in connection with lands leased under the Utilization of Lands Act, should be recovered by the Collector from the lease money before compensation is paid to the owners. This is the only purpose for which this measure has been brought forward. I hope the House will pass it without much discussion.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*): Sir, we thought that the Government would bring forth such an amendment whereby it would be possible to give the surplus land in the possession of landlords to the actual tillers of land or to those who wanted to till it so that production might be increased and they might also be able to make their ends meet. But I think that this amending Bill which has now been introduced by the Government, is a link in the chain of those Bills with which the Governmeut has been making the interests of the landlords secure. Now it wants to earn profits by acquiring, through this Bill, the lands of those landlords who cannot themslves look after them or till them and then would pay compensation to those landlords out of those profits. I fail to understand why the Congress party has adopted such a wrong course. It believs in and is trying to act upon the principle that the land after being taken away from the absentee landlord has got to be given to the tiller of the soil. But through this amending Bill which has now been brought forward, it wants to safeguard the interests of the landlords and wants to give them compensation. Then it claims that it is the Government of the poor! But its actions belie its professions. In fact it is the Government of the landlords.

The Government of Pepsu is accused of being the Government of the Jagirdars and landlords. Even that Government has not brought forward any measure whereby any compensation might have been given to the landlords for the lands aquired under the Utilization of Lands Act. It is surprising that the Government will reclaim the barren and unproductive land, under this Bill, which was not even cultivated by the landlord himself, and would then give compensation to him for that waste land. I fail to understand how the Government came to have such intimate friendship with the landlord!

Minister for Development: On a point of order, Sir. My hon. Friend is wholly going wide of the mark, and is saying irrelevant things. This Bill seeks to amend a certain section of the parent Act, but my hon. Friend has begun to disucss the principle underlying the Act, itself. If

[Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut]

I may be permitted to say so, Sir, his irrelevancy does not enhance the dignity of House.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut: Sir, I think he is feeling sour at the truth that we are telling and he wants that we should not cross the limit of the meagre contents of the Bill. I cannot help saying that the way in which this amendment has been brought forth can have only one purpose, namely, to make the interests of the landlords secure. I asked why the Government should give compensation after earning profits to the landlord from the land which he does not till and with which he has no connection and on which he grows no crops. We want that an amendment should have been put forward whereby the land could have been given to the tiller of the soil without any compensation being paid to the landlord.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

CLAUSE 2.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

> That the East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Sir, it appears that the hon. Friend sitting opposite has not understood the Bill. He has said that Government, through this measure is safeguarding the interests of the landlord to benefit whom this Bill has been brought forward. The fact of the matter, however, is that the Government will recover the expenditure which it will have to incur in connection with the land acquired under this Act and that expenditure would be recovered out of the lease money of the landlord. I think that the observations made by my hon. Friend in this regard are entirely baseless.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

> That the East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

> That the East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill be passed

The motion was carried

PUNJAB ABOLITION OF ALA MALKIYAT AND TALUKDARI RIGHTS BILL.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Abolition of Ala Malkiyat and Talukdari Rights Bill.

Minister for Development: Sir, I beg to move—

> That the Punjab Abolition of Ala Malikdat and Talukdari Rights Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, the need for this legislation is quite evident and I think we should better proceed to pass this measure.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved —

> That the Punjab Abolition of Ala Malkiyat and Talukdari Rights Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, we would have been immensely pleased over this Bill which has been introduced by the Government to end Ala Malkiat etc., if it had not contained any provision regarding compensation at all.

There are three types of ownership in the Punjab at present, firstly Ala Malkiat, secondly, occupancy tenancy and lastly non-occupancy tenancy. So far as the Ala Malkiyat is concerned, if you study the revenue records, you will find that before 1862, there was no mention of Ala Malkiyat of land in the records. The landlords who are Ala Malaks are, in fact, not the owners of the land. The British Government had appointed these persons for the purpose of collecting land revenue and other taxes. But in 1832, a British officer named Brown transferred the ownership of a large number of villages to these collectors of taxes and they were shown as Ala Malaks in the revenue records, even though they had not the remotest connection with the land. Before 1862, these people had absolutely no right on the lands of those villages. But now our Government after recognising their right, is making provisions for compensation. I believe that the Bill as it stands at present, will prove harmful to the interets of the actual tiller of the land.

Mr. Speaker, according to this Bill the compensation will be eight times the rent and other dues. This is wrong. Why should people who have no right to land be given so much of compensation ? The Pepsu Government which is notorious for being pro-Jagirdars has fixed compensation for thirty-six thousand acres at the rate of fifteen annas and nine pies per acre. This has been done only because compensation has to be given in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. But the compensation which is being fixed by our Government is eight times the rent etc. This is too much. The Ala Maliks should be entitled to a compensation of one pie only as they managed to get lands during the British regime by unfair means. In fact they have no right to this huge compensation And then it is a great injustice to order that the rent of eight months be paid in three months. I would submit that the compensation should be reduced and the period for its payment increased.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, so far as the aims and objects of this Bill are concerned, I am in a position to say that there is nothing wrong with them. They are indeed very good. No doubt, all this has been done in the light of this progressive

age. But unfortunately the President's Act of 1919 contains a flaw and that too a technical one. The Ala Maliks actually go out of the picture if occupancy rights are given to the tenants. As a matter of fact by doing so the purpose of the Bill is served. I think this Bill requires amendment and would therefor request that the Minister should give due consideration to it. I congratulate the Minister-in-Charge as his Bills are always progressive. (Applause.) It is correct. But I submit that there are some legal lacunae in the Bill which should be removed.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) : So far as Sardar Mota Singh's suggestion is concerened, I may say that the Government is always prepared to rectify mistakes, if there be any. As for the objection of the hon. Member from Tanda that the period of three months fixed for the payment of compensation is not sufficient, I would invite his attention to the proviso of this clause, which says :

> 'Provided that the collector may, having regard to the amount of compensation or for such other reasons to be recorded by him, allow the Adna Malik to pay the compensation in such six-monthly instalments not exceeding in any case six years as he thinks fit".

I think this should satisfy the hon. Member.

The next point relates to the amount. I think that the hon. Member has not made a careful study of this matter. I may tell him that from one to two pice per acre are to be charged in Amritsar, two pice in Gurdaspur, and one seer per maund is to be paid in the districts of the hon. Member himself i.e., Hoshiarpur. I think the hon. Member has not cared to know facts before offering his criticism. He has given the instance of Pepsu. I have no mind to say anytihing about this State as it is a neighbouring State but may be excused, if I say that it is not good to follow the example of a State where there is no value for human life. We should look to our own State which is a progressive one and where everything has value.

Mr. Speaker : Where Sardar Achhar Singh and others can be returned as Members !

Minister for Development : Yes. In these circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I would submit that this Bill be passed as it stands.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

> That the Punjab Abolition of Ala Malkiyat and Talukdari Rights Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried

Mr. Speaker: Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1.

Sub-clauses (2) & (3).

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Sub-clauses (2) and (3) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3.

Mr. Speaker: I have received a few amendments to Clause 3. I call upon Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut to move his amendmeat first.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut: Sir, I beg to move—

That in part (b), lines 3—7, the words "provided that......... with this Act" be deleted.

Mr. Speaker: I feel that the first part of this Clause serves the purpose very well and there is no need for the second part. That is why I have moved this amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That in part (b) lines 3—7, the words "provided that.........with this Act" bc deleted.

Now I call upon Bakhshi Partap Singh to move his amendmet.

Shri Partap Singh Bakhshi (Sujanpur) (*Hindi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That at the end the following be added :—

'(c) the rent realised by an Ala Malik from an Adna Malik after 15th June, 1952 shall be either refunded by the former to the latter or may be credited towards the payment of compensation as determined by a Collector on the application of the Ala Malik concerned."

Sir, I must say that the Government deserves every praise for having brought this very useful Bill which confers rights on the Adna Maliks. But I have a request to make in this connection and it is this that the hon. Minister should see that the rents charged by the Ala Maliks after the 15th of June, 1952 are either refunded by them or taken into accouut for purposes of compensation.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That at the end the following be added :—

" (c) the rent realised by an Ala Malik from an Adna Malik after 15th June, 1952 shall be either refunded by the former to the latter or may be credited towards the payment of compensation as determined by a collector on the application of the Ala Malik concerned."

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) **:** The amendment proposed by Bakhshi Sahib which asks for refund of the rents paid after the 15th June, 1952 is already covered by the Bill. The necessity of such an amendment does not arise as the Bill is to have effect from that date. It may, therefore, be withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in part (b) lines 3-7, the words "Provided that....... with this Act" be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end the following be added :-

" (C) the rent realised by an Ala Malik from an Adna Malik after 15th June, 1952 shall be either refunded by the former to the latter or may be credited towards the payment of compensation as determined by a Collector on the application of the Ala Malik concerned.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The Motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an amendment to Clause 5 from Sardar Chanan Singh. He may please move the same.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move —

> That in lines 2—3, for the words "eight times........if any" the words "one pie for every rupee of the annual rent" be substituted.

Sir, strictly speaking the Ala Maliks have no right to receive compensation at all and if the Government is bent upon giving them some compensation, they should be given nothing more than one pie for every rupee The hon. Minister for Deveolpment is under the impression that this compensation is no compensation or only very nominal In this connection I would like to make it clear to him that the British Government had conferred the right of ownership upon them in order to create their own supporters. Public at large was illiterate and ignorant and hence they did not know that the persons who realised taxes from them would be made owners of the land some day. As a matter of fact they do not deserve even a single pie by way of compensation, but as we have to conform to the provisions made in the constitution regarding this matter, I would suggest that they may be given only one pie in a rupee.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

> That in lines 2—3, for the words "eight times ...... if any" "one pie for every rupee of the annual rent" be substituted.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the amendment moved by hon. Friend Sardar Chanan Singh. Our Government claims to be a progressive Government. So whenever our hon Ministers speak, they make tall claims of having made some very exceptional and extraordinary achievements. But the clause, as it stands, belies their claims. The provision made therein indicates that it is not some other State Government but it is our Government itself which is backward, stagnant and unprogressive. (interruptions). What I mean to submit is that if they really want to show themselves as progressive they should accept the amendment, put forward by my hon. Friend.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker the speech made by the hon Member, preceding me,

reminds me of the two categories of the people, namely, the progressives and insane progressives, better known as *ultra leftists.* My Friend seems to tread the path of the latter. I may assure the House that we have brought this Bill after giving careful thought and full consideration to it. We feel that this is the best way of carrying out land reforms.

Mr. Speaker: Question is —

That in lines 2—3, for the words "eight times............ if any" the words " one pie for every rupee of the annual rent " be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 6.

Sadar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg move—.

That in Sub-clause (1) line 5, for the words " three month " the words " one year " be substituted.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Ministers often remarks that we do not properly read the Bills and express our opinion off-hand. I may tell them that we always read legislative business thoroughly before giving expression to our views. If they have already laid down a period of 6 years, then I would request that they should accept the provision of instalments in this case. I think that every thing should not be left to the whim of the Collector and that the amendment put forward by me should be accepted.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That in Sub-clause (1) line 5, for the words "three month" the words " one year " be subtituted.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (1) line 5, for the words "three month" the words "one year" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 7.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That clause 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 8.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That olause 8 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

CLAUSE 9.

Mr. Speaker: Sardar Chanan Singh and Sardar Harkishan Singh have given notice of an amendment to Clause 9. Any of them may move it.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That the clause be deleted.

Mr. Speaker, it has been laid down in this clause that nothing in this Act shall apply to the evacuee land. I would like to submit that certain Muslims who are *Ala Maliks* of certain lands have migrated to Pakistan and yet their lands have not been allotted to any person. Sir, I would say that this clause is meaningless. It is a fraud and it has been provided to protect some particular lands. It simply aims at throwing dust in the eyes of the refugees. I would, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government that it should be deleted frothwith

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the clause be deleted.

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon (Minister for Development) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, if my hon. Friends feel that this Clause is ineffective and meaningless, then let it remain. It won't harm them (*laughter*)

The object of making this provision is to avoid this Act being condemned on the ground that it conflicts with the law on evacuee property. When we are doing good to them and want to ameliorate their lot, do the hon. Members wish that we should damn all our efforts by removing this clause ? Sir, I considered it my duty to explain the real position to them and I hope that they would after all understand it some day.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Clause be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 9 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 10.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

The Clause 10 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 11.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 11 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 12.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 12 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 13.

Mr. Speaker : Questioni s—

That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1.

Sub-Clause (2).

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-Clause (2) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) **:** Sir I beg to move—

That the Punjab Abolition of Ala Malikiyat and Talukdari Rights Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Abolition of Ala Malikiyat and Talukdari Rights Bill be passed.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (*Punjabi*) **:** Sir, I think that such legislation is very necessary to satisfy the needs of the time. So far as the provisions of the Bill are concerned, there may be some drawbacks in it yet its usefulness is undoubted. But the pity of it is that the Ministers do not accept any amendment that is moved by the members of the Opposition. We find that the Bills which were passed during the last session have been amended by the Legislative Council according to the amendments which we had earlier moved in this House but were rejected. With all this, we think that this Bill must be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Abolition of Ala Malikiyat and Talukdari Rights Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB REQUISITIONING AND ACQUISITIONING OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BILL, 1953.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) **:** Sir, I introduce the Punjab Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Bill.

Chief Minister : Sir, I beg to move—

> That the Punjab Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, there is only one consideration which has influenced the Government to put forward this Bill before the House. Since the Second World War the pace of construction of houses in the State has been very slow.

This pace has failed to satisfy the ever increasing demand for housing accommodation. Moreover, the development schemes undertaken by the Government require an enormous amonnt of money and for this reason the Government is not in a position to make adequate accommodation available to the homeless people. It is, therefore, for this purpose that the Government intend to arm itslef with powers of requisitoning of such houses for public use which are not required for their personal residence by the owners thereof. I may, however, assure the hon. Members that this Bill has been framed on the lines of the President's Act which is already in force. In case any difficulty is experienced in the working of this Act, the Government will try to remove it so far as it is practicable to do so under the rules.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

> That the Punjab Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable property Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (P*unjabi*) : Sir, I think that from the Government's point of view such a Bill is necessary in special emergent circumstances to tide over a temporary difficulty. But we find that this kind of law is becoming a permanent feature in our State. We have been noticing for the last so many years that whenever the term of this Act is about to expire steps are taken by the Government to give it another lease of life by enacting fresh legislation in this behalf.

I have one great objection against this Bill and that is this. Normally such a measure is intended to meet some emergent situation and naturally it should be a temporary phase but effort is now being made by the Government to make this Act a permanent feature in our State. Moreover, it goes counter to the provisions of Fundamental Rights guaranteed under the Constitution, and also other safety measures which have been enacted by our Government. Sir, if any person builds a house for himself, this Act will make it obligatory for him to surrender that

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]
house at any time Government may require it for public use. In this way it would contravene the Fundamental Rights guaranteed to the people under the Constitution. Then, Sir, the Government has not given any convincing reason for bringing forward this legislation before the House. I may draw the attention of the Hon. Chief Minister to the fact that though the Government may requisition agricultural land or urban property under this Act there is no denying the fact that the enactment of such a measure is bound to create a great deal of discontent among the masses. The value of the property is dwindling in the State and the capitalists are shifting to other States to re-establish themselves there. It has created a condition of uncertainty in the State. The result is that even the Zamindars are investing their capital in building houses in Uttar Pradesh. This State is, as a matter of fact, inhabited by petty landowners and tenants. In the circumstances, I earnestly urge the Government not to ignore their interests.

Apart from this, another point to which I wish to refer is that while introducing this Bill, the Chief Minister held out an assurance that he would see, that all the flaws and hardships noticed and experienced in the working of this piece of legislation would be removed Sir, it goes without saying that every time the hon. Minister bring forward a Bill, they promise to introduce very comprehensive legislation in the next sessions. But I fail to find any improvement in the Bill under discussion when I compare it with the one already in force. Through you, Sir, I would like to bring this point to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister that the enforcement of his Act is very acutely agitating the minds of the people. Under the circumstances prevailing in the State they do not consider it worth while to invest money in the construction of buildings or establishment of new factories.

Minister for Irrigation : Has not the U P. Government got such an Act, in force ?

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Sir, my submission is that nobody is prepared to construct more houses than his personal requirement. If somebody undertakes the construction of a building, he does so for his own residence. Nobody is prepared to build more than his bare requirments. The feeling is that if a person constructs more houses than he personally needs they would be requisitioned by the Government with the result that he would have to undergo heavy loss. I, therefore, feel that it is incumbent upon the Government to remove this legitimate fear of the people. For this purpose

it is necessary that some sort of provision must be made in this Bill which may assure the people that the Act will be repealed after a certain definite period.

So far as the question of misusing the powers as provided in the bill is concerned, there is no denying the fact that these are being abused by the officers concerned to greatest possible extent. A majority of the buildings in the districts are requisitioned on grounds of personal enemities and petty mutual differences between the officers and the owners. The people who have access to the Deputy Commissioners utilize their influence for taking revenge on their enemies. In this way this Act has become a great source of nuisance and favouritism. I am giving expression to these views on the basis of my personal experience. In this connection I also asked a question on the floor of the House, wherein I enquired the number of houses which were requisitioned or derequisitioned during the course of the past six months. A perusal of the list given in that respect apparently reveals the extent of discrimination displayed by the authorities. I wish to let the Chief Minister know that the person applying for the derequisitioning of his building has to offer a great inducement to the Deputy Commissioner. I think, Sir, that many people even exercise their political influence in this matter. Some people even go to the extent of saying that at least their buildings should not be requisitioned because they had made heavy cash donations towards the Congress funds. I possess proofs to substantiate this allegation. A similar favour was shown in five cases at Ludhiana in the matter of requisitioning of the buildings. I am making a mention of these facts because the Chief Minister has promised to remove all the difficulties coming in the way of the working of this Act. But, Sir, I make bold to submit on the basis of my experience that whenever somebody applies for the de-requisition of his property, a report is made to the Deputy Commissioner that the property concerned is required by the Government in the interest of the public. I can cite scores of examples in support of my point. Sardar Gopal Singh Khalsa applied to the Deputy Commissioner that since he required his building for his personal use, it should be de-requisitioned.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Can he quote such personal incident ?

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Sir, by quoting this example I mean to prove the extent to which those powers are misused. Well, in reply to

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]
that notice Sardar Sahib was advised to live in the countryside. "Why should he put up in the city" was the query. Sir, with a view to substantiating the charge of misusing the powers by the authorities does this example given by me leave any room for doubt ? Therefore, I feel that this Bill should under the present circumstances not be passed by the House.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, in connection with the Bill under discussion I am to submit that undoubtedly an urgent necessity did exist, though temporarily, for a measure like this, when an ordinance was promulgated by the President. On a previous occasion when the Chief Minister brought in an amending measure seeking extension of the period for what the Act, was in existence, he made it abundantly clear that it will not be extended any further. But now from this Bill it appears that they have developed a chronic disease to get more powers and get them sanctioned by the House. Perhaps this is why they bring in new legislation every time during the course of each Session of the legislature. It is common knowledge that now a days innumerable complaints are made by the people with regard to the working of this Act. It has been noticed that new buildings are requisitioned whenever any hon. Minister or any officer of the Government stands in need of the same. Today, a number of model towns have been constructed by the Government. A model town has been set up at Khanna also. A large number of houses constructed in this model town are lying unoccupied. Instead of requisitioning other buildings these buildings should be availed of.

Mr. Speaker : Does the hon Member mean that the people living at Amritsar should be allotted houses at Khanna ?

Sardar Achhar Singh : No, Sir, I do not mean this. What I mean to say is that a large number of Government offices are scattered here and there in hill stations. Why should not these be located at one place ?

This will also mean the utilisation of the houses constructed in the new townships. In view of this I wish to submit that the Government would be well advised to utilise these vacant houses and hence withdraw this Bill.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City North West) (*Hindi*) : Sir, previously when the hon. Chief Minister introduced this Bill, I drew his attention toward a number of difficulties. It was hoped that in view of those

hardships some improvement must have been made in the working of this Act. But I am constrained to remark that despite the lapse of one whole year the working of this Act has not improved. Therefore. I again avail of this opportunity to draw the attention of the hon. Chief Minister torwards a few of those hardships hoping that he would endeavour to remove them.

In its Five Year Plan, the Government of India is also wedded to the policy of solving the complicated housing problem to the largest possible extent. They have even issued instructions that all possible endeavours be made to remove all the flaws and the difficulties which have been experienced during the course of the last four to five years. But the circumstances at present are such and also the working of this Act has shown that a requisitioning order from the Deputy Commissioner is served on the owner even prior to the Completion of the building itself. This has resulted in discouraging the people undertaking the construction of new houses. Scores of such instances can be quosted only from the Jullundur town itself. Sometime back the building of a gentleman was requisitioned for being provided to an hon. Minister, which gave rise to a long and protracted controversy. So much so that the house had to be derequisitioned after the case was filed in the High Court. People stopped constructing new houses in view of this fear. It was after a good deal of persuasion that the people again undertook the construction of buildings. With your permission Sir, I wish to tell the hon. Chief Minister that the present circumstances warrant a lenient enforcement of the provisions of this Act. I, therefore, urge upon the Government the desirability of issuing instructions to the officers not to enforce it rigidly.

In accordance with the provisions embodied in this Act, a District Magistrate is emprowerd to requisition any building he likes. But Sir, today the position is such that this discretion instead of being used by the District Magistrate is virtually being exercised by a petty clerk. The District Magistrate passes orders on the cases on the basis of the report submitted by his Clerk. I am pained to remark, Sir, that many a time such cases have come to our notice where in the buildings were desired to be derequisitioned for particular personal reasons—marriages or otherwise. But the decisions were not taken even afrer the said necessity was over. This is undoubted by a very appalling state of affairs. I,

[Shri Ram Kishan]

therefore, request the Government to take serious notice of such irrigularities. I wish that these powers should be properly exercised by the precribed authority only.

The third point to which I wish to invite the attention of the Chief Minister is that large additions have been made to the establishments of the various offices of the Punjab Government during the past three or four years. But now with the winding up of the Civil Supplies Department and the completion of the required work in the Rehabilitation Department, scores of employees are likely to be retrenched with the result that the necessity of a strict enforcement of this Act has considerably lessened. Besides, when we are bound to the policy of shifting all our offices to the new Capital — Chandigarh I think there is no reason why this Act should not be used sparingly.

Then, Sir, I would like to bring another matter to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister. It has been noticed that wherever the Additional District Magistrate or a Magistrate occupying a requisitioned building is transferred to some other station after the lapse of six months or so, instead of allotting his house to his successor a new building is requisitioned for the latter and the previous house is allowed to remain in possession of the farmer. Therefore, I wish to request the Chief Minister that the house occupied by the officer transfered should be given to his successor. Separate buildings should not be requisitioned for each successive officer.

The fourth point to which I wish to draw the hon. Chief Minister's attention is that in the matter of allotment of evacuee houses preference is given to Government servants and other people get such houses in very few cases. At the time of requisitioning houses allotting those in the model towns, Government servants are preferred to others. This causes great hardship to the general public. While passing this measure the Government should issue instructions to the district authorities that hardship is not caused to anybody. Allotment of houses should not be done by the clerks and if the District Magistrate or some other high ranking officer is convinced that a certain person genuinely stands in need of a house only then decision on his application for allotment should be taken and that too within three or four months.

Rao Gajraj Singh (Gurgaon) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, as stated by the hon. Chief Minister there is need of placing this Bill on the Statute

Book from the administrative point of view but it should be remembered that people have to suffer a number of hardships on account of it. It would be better if at the time of framing rules under Clause 22 of the Bill the Government takes care to avoid any difficulty being caused to the people. My hon. Friend Shri Ram Kishan has already drawn the attention of hon. Members towards these difficulties. I would like the hon. Chief Minister to assure the House that these things would be kept in view at the time of framing rules. I wish to point out that in some cases landlords have not been paid rent of their property. In this connection it may be stated that a long time ago a house was requisitioned at Gurgaon. It pains me to say that though the Development Minister visited that place and stayed there for a day yet he did not care to enquire from the people the difficulties whioh they were experiencing in regard to the exercise of reuisitioning powers. Well, in some cases rent has not been paid to the owners of houses for the last five years. I think that if serving of a registered notice is made obligatory and the matter is decided within a year or two after that it would be a good thing.

The other thing towards which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is that under Clause 10 appeal lies to the Government. I feel it would be better if the power of hearing appeals is given to the District Judges because if appeals are to lie to the State Government it would take long to decide them and the parties concerned will have to visit the head-qaurters a number of times.

As president of one of the District Requisitioning Committees, I beg to submit that these Committees are serving no useful purpose becuase their recommendations are not shown any respect by the District authorities. The members of these committees simply sign the papers and in some cases orders are issued before obtaining their signatures.

Then, Sir, I beg to submit that the amendment moved by Shri Mansa Ram Kuthiala appears to be appropriate as it seeks to exempt serais or dharamshalas from being requisitioned. It would not be out of place to mention here that the inhabitants of Gurgaon constructed a dharamshala costing three lakhs of rupee for the benefit of passengers but the Government requisitioned it and opened offices of the Electricity and the Civil Supplies Departments in it. The District

[Rao Gajraj Singh]

Board, Gurgaon, constructed two rooms but these were also requisitioned for the Election Office. We arranged two other rooms but the same were requisitioned to accommodate the Panchayat Office. I would request the Government not to act in this kind of high-handed manner. The matter does not end here. The Government has also requisitioned the Parao belonging to the District Board, Gurgaon. A notice has been served on the Board that rent would be paid in respect of the buildings only and not for the roads etc.,. This means that no rent would be paid for land measuring thirty acres. It was said that because the Government had requisitioned only the buildings no rent would be paid for the land.

Sardar Achhar Singh : Hedges should be grown on the roads so that these may not be crossed.

Rao Gajraj Singh : If we had any intention of doing such things we knew how to do these. There is no defect in the Bill under discussion, but I beg to submit that the Government should keep in view the hardships suffered by the people at the time of framing rules under Cl use 22.

Shri Ram Chandra Comrade (Nurpur) (*Hindi*): **Mr.** Speaker, as stated by the hon. Chief Minister it became necessary to place a Bill of this kind on the Statute Book as there was acute housing shortage after the Second World War. The situation in this respect has no doubt eased but not to such an extent as to enable the Government to repeal this law. I, therefore, support the principle of this Bill but would request the Government to use it for other public purposes also, if necessary. I want to give an instance to show that there is need of its being used for other purposes also. The Government Labour, Office is located at Jullundur. Now labour is assuming greater importance every day but this office is housed in a building so far away from the town that the labourers cannot go there to lodge their complaints. The big officers of the department have been provided residential accommodation in the town but the power of requisitioning has not been exercised for providing a building for the Labour Office in the town so that the hardships suffered by the labourers may end and the Labour Officer may avail of the help of other officers who would be near him.

Before partition, I was the president of the N.W.R Labour Union which had its head office at Lahore. After the partition we tried to get a building for locating that office at Jullundur but failed to get one. We would have been satisfied even with some ordinary house and did not require a big or palatial building. I tried to get an ordinary house situated near the railway station allotted for that purpose but inspite of the fact that I was the Secretary and later on the General Secretary of the Provincial Congress Committe and also the Secretary of the Election Committee, my efforts for over three years did not bear any fruit. The officers appeared to have some soft corner for the lady occupying that house. If we could not be given that ordinary house the Government could have requisitioned some other house for the purpose and enabled us to open the office of the Labour Union. Now that so many houses in the model town and other houses have been constructed, the Government should re-examine the whole position in order to see whether it is not possible to release some of the requisitioned houses. As pointed out by one of my learned friends, some times it becomes necessary to exercise the powers of requisitioning but it cannot be denied that in many cases this power is misused I would, therefore, suggest that Government should review all the requisitioning orders in order to find out in how many cases the requisitioned houses can be released.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) Sir, with regard to the points to which the attention of the Government has been drawn by my hon. Friends, I may submit that at this stage the discussion should be confined only to the principles of the Bill and we should see whether there is really any need for passing this measure or not. My hon. Friend Sardar Ajmer Singh has admitted that a contingency may arise when the Government, may feel the necessity of requisitioning some property or even to acquire the requisitioned property. He has also stated that Government should, if need be, requisition any property. Under these circumstances, I would ask that unless the Government is armed with necessaray powers, how can it requisition property for public purposes.

An objection has been raised that the action of the Government in requisitioning the property of any individual would cause hardship to him. I wish the hon. members had taken the trouble of studying the Bill carefully. A perusal of the Bill would show that in this behalf

[Chief Minister]

necessary provision has been made under clause 3 of the Bill. I just read this clause for the information of the hon. Members.

> Provided further that where the requisitioned property consists of premises which are being used as a residence by a tenant for not less than two months immediately preceding the date of the service of noti e under sub-section (1), possession of the property shall not be taken unless the competent authority has provided such tenant with alternative accommodation which, in its opinion, is suitable.

If it is desired to requisition any property it will be necessary to serve a notice on the person, whose property is proposed to be requisitioned two months before according to the provisions of this Bill. It also sometime happens that the persons whose property is to be requisitioned, manage to get information about it from the office and then they put forward the plea that the property consists of premises which are used as a residence by them. In order to prevent such things we have made a provision in the Bill that a notice shall be served on the person at least two months before and he will be provided with an alternative suitable accommodation. It was also remarked that public sarai should not be requisitioned. I would point out to the hon. Members that such an emergency is likely to arise only when the requisitioning of such property is considered necessary. I may, however, assure the House that ordinarily no sarai will be requisitioned, unless its requisition is considered absolutely necessary. Then religious places have been excluded from the purview of this Bill. I remember that when sometime back there was acute shortage of housing accommodation at Panipat, the Sarai keepers took advantage of the difficulties of the people and tried to exploit them by charging exorbitant rent from them. Anyhow, if a contingency arises in which the Government is obliged to provide accommodation say to the flood-affected people it will have to take recourse to the requisitioning of even a public Sarai or a Dharmsala. Then, Sir, it has been stated that great difficulty will be experienced in the actual working of this Bill. In this connection I may inform the hon. Members that there is a prescribed procedure for requisitioning and redemption of mortgaged property and we have strictly to follow that procedure. I think there will be no difficulty if we follow that procedure At any rate, if any difficulty is experiencd in the procedure of requisioning the property the Government will certainly take steps to remove it.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Punjab Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1.

Sub-clauses (2) and (3).

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Sub-clauses (2) and (3) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 6.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 7.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

The Clause 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 8.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 8 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 9.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 9 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 10.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 10 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 11.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 11 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 12.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 12 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 13.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 14.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 14 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 15.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 15 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 16.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 16 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 17.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 17 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 18.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That Clause 18 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 19.

Mr. Speaker. Question is—

That Clause 19 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 20.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 20 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 21.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 21 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 22.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 22 stand part of the Bill.

The Motion was carried.

CLAUSE 23.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 23 stand part of the Bill

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 24.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 24 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 25.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 25 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1.

Sub-Clause (1).

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : Sir I beg to move—

That the Punjab Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Bill, 1953 be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Bill, 1953 be passed.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I just want to submit that the form in which this Bill in being passed is not free from defects. In this connection, I draw the special attention of the Government to Clause 3 which lays down that in order to requisition a property, the competent authority ' shall call upon the owner or any other person 'and so on.

This means that the competent authority may serve a notice on the tenants alone and make no reference to the landlords concerned.

In this way, Sir, there are other lacunae also which will make the enforcement of this measure difficult. So, my submission is that all its provisions may be given further consideration.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I know this Bill will be passed as it stands at present, yet I wish to say a word about its nature and character. This legislation which is going to be passed today is thoroughly undemocratic ; it will be no exaggeration to call it an autocratic measure. When passed, it will be an addition to the long list of autocratic measures already in the armoury of this Government. Not only this ; it will aggravate the unrest already prevailing among the people of this State. I may now quote from one or two clauses of this Bill to illustrate my point.

I would like the House to mark the following words in clause 3 (b) .

May, by order, direct that neither the owner of the property nor any other person shall, without permission of the competent authority dispose of.

[Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri]

> or structurally alter the property or let it out to a tenant until the expiry of such period not exceeding two months...........

This means that no owner shall, without the permission of the competent authority, be in a position to have repairs carried-out for a period of two months even though in the meanwhile the building may collapse or crumble down. I am not talking of imaginary things ; one such case did occur in Jullundur City. A requisitioned building of which the owner was a retired official of the Agriculture Department was on the brink of collapsing. The poor owner went to the Deputy Commissioner and explained the position to him but the latter replied that he could do nothing until the officer who was in occupation of the building left for Amritsar.

In a case in which land situated within the urban area of Jullundur City that had been allotted to some refugees was being taken away to oblige a chosen friend of the Ministers, the High Court had declared the previous Act void on a petition filed by those refugees at my instance. Now, again, an analogous legislation is bing passed. Formerly, Acts of highhandedness and oppression were committed outside the legal plane, now they will have the sanction of law. (*Cheers* from opposition Benches).

The same autocratic spirit is visible in sub-clause (2) of clause 3. The wording there is :

> ' it may, by order in writing, requisition the property and may make such further orders as appear to it to be necessary or expedient in connection with the requisitioning."

It is clear from this that the competent authority shall have unlimited powers to issue further orders at its own discretion. What else is autocracy ?

I would, therefore, impress upon the House that democratic spirit cannot tolerate this state of affairs. If you want that spirit to continue and flourish then I would appeal to the Chief Minister to reconsider this measure which is really a negation of Democracy. He should kindly take this fact into consideration that we are here to work and promote Democracy.

Shrimati Shanno Devi (Amritsar City West) (*Hindi*) : Sir, through you, I would like to tell my hon. Friends in regard to this Bill which has been brought before the House, that it is a measure which reminds us

all very vividly of the British regime. (*Cheers* from the Opposition). Sir, through you, I would request my hon. Friends sitting to my right and left that, if they would not interrupt me by clappping their hands, I shall be able to express my feelings smoothly.

I wish to place before the House the experience that we gained from the British Government but for want of time, I will try to make my point clear by citing only a few instances. It is common knowledge that if the people build houses they do so for the purpose of living in them. But there are a number of hard cases in our knowledge in which the houses built by certain people were requisitioned by the Government and the owners are still going about in a miserable condition I know of such a case at Amritsar. Three years ago, the house of a certain person was requisitioned. As he has no other living accommodation, he has been trying to get that house derequisitioned for the last three years. He wrote to the Home Secretary ; he sent a representation to the Chief Secretary. So much so that he moved the entire machinery of the Government and approached a Member of Parliament from Amritsar. He met me also scores of times. But all his effort has proved of no avail to him because that house is occupied by an officer.

Sir, the difficulty is that the houses which are requsitioned are not requisitioned to meet the needs of the needy people. On the other hand, so far as I can see, those houses are taken for the officers generally. Sometimes, it so happens that the houses of some people are requisitioned in the name of a department itself, although those departments can be accommodated in the Secretariat building. In this connection, I am reminded of an incident at Jullundur. The house of Rai Sahib Hari Chand over there is requisitioned for the Transport Department. Whenever I meet him, he invariably showers countless abuses on the Congress. He, too, is right. He retired from service three years ago and he wants to live in his own house but that is not available. I see that that is a case of geniune hardship But I am pained to see that the fair name of the Congress is tarnished for a matter which in fact concerns the Government alone In view of such cases of hardship, I think, this Bill would serve no useful purpose. As I have said before, houses are generally requisitioned for the officers. I am not against the officers. They are ours and similarly the State and the Government are our own. But I want that nothing should be done which may bring discredit to Government or the party which has formed this Government. Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to express my feelings inspite of the shortness of time

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I have to say just one thing. It is this that I assure the House that if any hard cases will be brought to the notice of the Government, it will give them full consideration.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 81 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : Sir, I beg to move—

That this House ratifies the amendment of Article 81 of the Constitution proposed to be made by the Constitution (Second Amendment) Bill, 1952, as passed by the two Houses of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, it must be within the knowledge of the hon. Members that the Constitution (Second Amendment) Bill, 1952, has been passed by the two Houses of Parliament. Before this amendment can be enforced, it is necessary that nine of the Part A and B States should ratify this amending measure. Then, Sir, the hon. Members must also be aware that under the provisions of the Constitution the maximum strength of the House of People has been laid down at 500 Members. After having fixed this number, the framers of the Constitution had to see as to how many people could be represented by one Member. But at that time the figures available to them were those of the 1941 Census, on the basis of which the upper and lower limits of the number of persons represented by one Member came to 750,000 and 500,000 respectively. But on completion of the 1951 Census, the figures revealed that the population of the country had increased by 13 percent. Now if a Member of Parliament can serve as a representative of 750,000 people, he can also represent people larger in number than this figure. Naturally with the increase in population, each Member of Parliament stands in need of some more votes with a view to achieve full representative character. The other method is to enhance the number of Members of Parliament in order to do justice and give proper representation to the increased population. But the difficulty in given effect to the latter method is that under the Constitution the number of Members of the House of People cannot be enhanced. Obviously the only way to reflect the representation

of the increased population in Parliament is to raise the number of persons in the upper and lower limits. Hence whereas previously the upper and lower limits for every Member were respectively of 750,000 and 500,000 of the population, now under the Constitution (Second Amendment) Bill, 1952, they have been raised to 850,000 and 650,000 respectively.

The House will agree with me that an increase in population is beyond one's control. So the Members of Parliament can say and rightly say that if previously each one of them could represent 750,00 people, now he could equally represent 850,000 of the population. As a matter of fact there can be no two opinions about this claim. I would, therefore, request the House with all the emphasis at my command, to ratify this Bill and thereby declare that the action of the Parliament in passing this the Constitution (Second Amendment) Bill, 1952, is proper and in the right direction, and also that completely associate ourselves with the Parliament in the matter.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

> That this House ratifies the amendment of Article 81 of the Constitution proposed to be made by the Constitution (Second Amendment) Bill, 1952, as passed by the two Houses of Parliament.

Shri Ram Kishen : Sir, through you, I wish to enquire from the Chief Minister as to how far this amending measure is going to affect the strength on the basis of which the members have been elected to the present Punjab State Legislature.

Shri Ram Kishan : What I mean to ask is what reduction in the number of Members will take place in the States ?

Chief Minister : This will be calculated and if the hon. Member can find it convenient to see me after the sitting I can let him know about it.

Sardar Mohan Singh : Sir, this thing should not be done as it has been proposed. In fact, a quota should be fixed because ours is a border State.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Does the hon. Member propose a quota of permits ? (*Laughter*).

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : (Ajnala) (*Punjbi*) : Sir, it has beene stated that the need for this amendment has arisens because according to the

[Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina]

Constitution no change in the number of five hundred can be affected. I think this reason is not sound. I wonder why the figure of five hunderd is being considered as sacrosanct. It is comman knowledge that in many States of Europe even in England the number of Members of the State Legislature sometimes goes upto six hundred.

Shri Ram Kishan : There is no State legislature in England.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Parliament is also a legislature.

Mr. Speaker : Please don't enter into mutual discussions.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Sir, I wish to point out that there are only 488 members left if we exclude the 4 seats given to the Anglo-Indians and the Part C States. If the population of 3,51 million is divided by this figure, one member represents about seven lakhs and twenty thousand persons. Is it sufficient to give only one representative to such a large number? What is more, even this figure is sought to be increased. This provides an opportunity to the party in power to do injustice to others. I would submit that this should not be done. The present proposal is harmful, undemocratic and against the spirit of popular representation. I strongly oppose this amending measure.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the resolution which the hon. Chief Minister has moved is sure to get the approval of this House because it is supported by the party in power. But still I would like to point out that he has placed before us only one aspect of the problem. He has stated that because there is an increase in the figures of population there should, therefore, be a corresponding increase in the upper and lower limits. This is only one side of the picture. We find that the Parliamentary constituencies are very unwieldy. As a matter of fact no candidate can carry on convassing in such large constituencies and it becomes very expensive for them to fight an election. Ordinarily it is the duty of the members to develope contacts with their constituents, and to hear and voice their complaints. It is quite undemocratic to have such large constituencies. To form a constituency of eight lakh fifty thousand people is not proper because it is difficult to fight an election in such a constituency. It would have been more in the fitness of things to have increased the number of constituencies than to resort to increasing their size. The number of members of the Parliament could easily be increased. This would have

given more representation to the people and persons representing all interests would have been able to go to Parliament. Regarding Shri Ram Kishan's statement that a Parliament is not a legislature, I would like only to express my surprise. If we are to copy the British Parliament which is known as the Mother of all Parliaments we should see that, in a small country like England, there are as many as six hundred members of the House. In our country where there are numerous races, languages and sects of the people it is not proper to place the limit of the members of Parliament at five hundred. Therefore, in my opinion, this amendment is against all principles of democracy. It is also against the interests of the people. It is my view that if the number of seats is increased it will be more in the fitness of things generally.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I would not like to say that a confusion has been created but I should say that the point has not been grasped by my friends opposite. I remember when I was in school if a promising lad was unable to follow a certain point the teachers used to explain it again.

Mr. Speaker : It is well that the hon. Chief Minister at least considers them promising.

Chief Minister : There is no doubt in that. Anyhow, I wonder why the real point has been missed. The fact is that the number of seats has been fixed at five hundred and the representatives of the people in the Parliament have never felt that this number is small. They have never expressed any desire to increase it As a matter of fact they realise the necessity of retaining this limit.

Then, Sir, the representation of increased population has to be adjusted. Things cannot go smoothly until this adjustment is made. It was enquired of me how this measure would affect our State legislature. My submission is that it is the function of the Delimitation Commission to determine the Constituencies. No doubt a decision will be arrived at in view of the present population of our State. Secondly, it is to be seen what their effect will be on our representation in the Parliament. At present, there are 17 Part A and B States in India. Nine of them will remain uneffected. As regards the remaining ones there will be an increase of three Constituencies in Bombay, two each in Mysore and Madras. There will be a reduction of two in Uttar Pradesh while in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Bengal and Punjab, there will be reduction of one each.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : Then, it has been stated that a change will be effected even if the present constituencies are retained.

Chief Minister : In order to elucidate this point still further I quote the opinion of the Law Member. It is like this.

> The census figures as, I have said, are higher in all cases. The over-all limit of 500 Members for the House of the people is left unchanged. Therefore, it is not possible to increase appreciably the number of seats allotted to these States. Therefore, we have got to reduce the average percentage of representation. In these circumstances, instead of one Member for 7·2 lakhs, we have now to provide for one Member for say, 7·5 lakhs. We find that if we alter the figures from 750,000 to 850,000 and from 500,000 to 650,000, that will correspond with this estimate. That is why this change has to be made. The effect of it, so far as it is possible to say at the present moment, will be this : Out of 17 Part A and Part B-States, the number will remain unaltered in nine States. It will be increased by three in one State, viz., Bombay. It will be increased by one in Madras and Mysore, it will be decreased by two in Uttar Pradesh, whereas in four States, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal, there will be a reduction of one in each. That will be the result of this new adjustment. From that point of view, this amendment has been suggested. As a result of this we shall have to take up the other Bill which I shall move later on. The Delimitation Commission Bill..................................

So Mr. Speaker, it will be seen that it is a matter which needs calculation, and with a view to determining the proportion, we shall have to keep in view the increase in population.

Mr. Speaker : Question is --

> That this House ratifies the amendment of Article 81 of the Constitution proposed to be made by the Constitution (Second Amendment) Bill, 1952, as passed by the two Houses of Parliament.

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION RE-LEGISLATION FOR LEVY OF ESTATE DUTY BY PARLIAMENT.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

> Whereas it is necessary to make a law providing for the levy of estate duty in respect of agricultural land and WHEREAS any such law relates to matter enumerated in the State List ; THEREFORE, in pursuance of uniformity, this House do resolve, by virtue of clause (1) of Article 252

of the Constitution of India, that it is desirable that Parliament should make the law with respect to matters enumerated in entry 48 of the State List and that matters in relation to the levy of estate duty in respect of agricultural land in the State of Punjab should be regulated by an Act passed by the Parliament under Article 252 aforesaid. The net proceeds of the estate duty charged and collected under the said law in so far as they relate to agricultural lands in the State of Punjab should, however, be assigned towards the public account of the State of Punjab.

Sir, I would like to remind my hon. Friends sitting on the Opposition Benches and especially those who belong to the groups of my hon. Friends Sardar Ajmer Singh and Sardar Achhar Singh that they have always been laying stress on the point that while the exemption limit of income-tax has been raised from Rs. 3,600 to Rs. 4,200, the Government should on the same basis pass a legislation with regard to the charging of land revenue so that the rural section of the people may not have any grouse in this behalf. They say that keeping in view this very principle we should enact such a legislation—whether it be good or bad—as would uniformly apply to all the people in the State. The Punjab Government has realised that the Death Duty which is proposed to be levied on the agricultural property and urban property after the death of its owner will be exactly on the lines suggested by the hon. Members. We have, therefore, to pass this resolution in both the Legislative Houses of the State in order to empower the Central Parliament under Article 252 of the Constitution to pass this legislation for the whole of the country including our State. It is true that our Legislature is also empowered to enact such legislation but we want that there should be a uniform policy with regard to the introduction of reforms just as we have done in the distribution of land by splitting up the large sized holdings of big zamindars and thus have saved substantial area of land in the State to be untilised for re-distribution among the landless labourers in order to solve the problem of unemployment and satisfy the innate hunger for land among the rural population. We find that at present there is a great difference in the condition of the rich and the poor people in the country. The economic position of some people has so much deteriorated that they can hardly afford to buy clothes for themselves. While on the other hand there are others who are indulging in extravagance and luxury and are big property owners although the number of such people may be small in our State. As a mater of fact big landlords are living in other States. But people in our Statehave little grouse against them. We want that this legislation be enacted by the Central Government. It is

[Minister for Development]

quite evident that the Central Government has been actuated by this principle because it has thought of taking steps in this direction. This tax will be levied by the Central Government but the income of this tax will accrue to our State Government. It is imperative that this duty should be levied on people who own big properties whether urban or agricultural. There will not be any loss to the zamindars by the imposition of Death Duty.

My hon. Friend Sardar Ajmer Singh has remarked that inspite of the fact that the Central Government has raised the exemption limit of income-tax from Rs. 36,00 to Rs. 42,00 our Government continues to charge land revenue on the same old basis. I would submit that by passing this resolution we would be authorising the Parliament to pass a law so that, this duty be levied uniformly on all big property owners in the whole of the country. I would ask the hon. Members of the Oppos tion to lend their full co-operation to us in passing this resolution which will be followed by a legislation by the Central Parliament applicable to all big property owners in the country. Moreover, this duty is to be levied on the evacuee property as well. Now if we have to make any law in respect of evacuee property we have to consult the Central Government becuse that property is managed by that Government. So far as the question of evacuee property is concerned, we are not competent to make any law about it. It is in the fitness of things that this duty should also be levied on the evacuee property. I think that the hon Members of the Opposition and also the members of this side of the House will agree with me on this point and pass this resolution.

Whereas it is necessary to make a law providing for the levy of estate duty in respect of agricultural land and WHEREAS any such law relates to matter enumerated in the State List; THEREFORE, in pursuance of uniformity, this House do resolve, by virtue of clause (1) of Article 252 of the Constitution of India, that it is desirable that Parliament should make the law with respect to matters enumerated in entry 48 of the State List and that matters in relation to the levy of estate duty in respect of agricultural land in the State of Punjab should be regulated by an Act passed by the Parliament under Article 252 aforesaid. The net proceeds of the estate duty charged and collected under the said law in so far as they relate to agricultural lands in the State of Punjab should, however, be assigned towards the public account of the State of Punjab.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have risen to oppose this resolu ion tooth and nail, not on the plea that, as a democratic opposition, we have to oppose it on account of its having been sponsored by the Government Benches but because I have serious apprehensions that the acceptance of this resolution by the House would spell ruin to the zamindars of the Punjab. I think that such an endeavour on the part of the Treasury Benches is surely calculated to suck even the last drop of blood that is still circulating in their veins. Does not this move of the Government give a clear indication of its dis-service to the land owners ? I apprehend that by this Resolution, the Government would not only dislocate even the partial economic stability of the State which has been achieved with much difficulty but would also create hurdles in the way of the prosperity of the land also What pains me most is that the Minister for Development, who professes to be a great friend of the Zamindars has taken upon himself the responsibility of sponsoring this resolution which in my opinion goes counter to their interests Apart from this, Sir, I see no justification in handing over our responsibility to the Central Government when the Punjab Government is itself fully competent to enact laws on the subject. We know better the state of affairs obtaining in our State We know full well the economic conditions of our people. It is only we and not the Central Government, who can adjudge the tax paying capacity of the masses. Only we can determine whether or not there is any scope for levying further taxes on the resources of the people. As a matter of fact it is really a flimsy argument to say that the recommendation of this House is being sought with a view to enabling the Central Government to levy a uniform Estate Duty in all the States. My feeling is that the House should not pass this resolution. I feel this Congress Government has levied so many taxes on the people, particularly the rural people and the zamindars, that they are now tired of it. Wherever the Ministers go, the people bitterly complain of the large number of taxes being imposed upon them and they entreat the Government to cry halt to the enactment of such measures. Perhaps, it is only to avoid the discredit and disgrace that the proposed tax is being levied in the name of the Government of India so that afterwards the Congress Members of this House may be in a position to say that they had no hand in levying this new tax, and that it was placed on the Statute Book by the Government of India. However, if this new tax is definitely to be imposed, why should it not be passed by the 126 hon. Members constituting this House ? My submission is, how can Punjab and Bombay,

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]

or the Punjab and Madras, or the Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, be treated on a uniform footing in the matter of this tax ? May I know what is there in common in all these States ? On what basis can you compare the economic conditions obtaining in those States with those of the Punjab ? As a matter of fact, a major portion of the population now inhabiting our State constitutes the people who, as a result of the creation of Pakistan, were uprooted from their hearths and homes in that country and had to migrate to this side of the border. They have not yet been able to stand on their own feet. Despite their miserable plight the Government are introducing one taxation measure after another. Do they mean to suppress them still further ? Leaving aside those land-lords who own thousands of acres of land, I am to enquire of the hon. Members adorning the Treasury Benches whether they are determined to ruin the remaining poor zamindars who do not get anything but dry *chapatis* to eat and do not possess sufficient money to have any standard of living ? In the circumstances, have you ever imagined how they will be in a position to manage money for the purposes of the payment of the new tax ? I do not mean that you should refrain from imposing any taxes. You may, by all means, impose any number of taxes but my submission is that if you cannot help levying them, then you should enact necessary legislation on your own responsibility so that you may face the people on the question whether the taxes imposed were justified or not ? I want to enquire as to what beneficent works, excepting the levying of taxes one after the other ; does the Government contemplate launching or has undertaken for the amelioration of the condition of the ruralites ? Sir, I remember that during the course of his speech in the previous Budget Session, I interrupted the Chief Minister and told him that apart from the Land Revenue and Abiana, a major portion of the Passengers and Goods Tax, the Sales Tax, etc., fell on the slender resources of the rural population and that if one happened to examine closely the real state of affairs obtaining in the cities, it would be apparent to him that the rich were growing richer whereas on the other hand the poor particularly the ruralites were becoming poorer. In this way, Sir, I enquired of him as to how the Government proposed to bridge the gulf which was becoming wider and wider between the two sections of the people day by day. In reply to this query he was kind enough to remark that a new legislation meant to affect the rich people in the form of Death Duty was well on its way to being drafted which would go a long way in removing the existing disparity between the two categories

of the people. Mr. Speaker, only God knows as to when such a Bill will be brought forth to implement this. What has been done is that they have moved this Resolution empowering the Parliament to pass a law levying Death Duty on the people owning land in the rural areas. I take this opportunity to enquire of the Government the emergency which warranted the enacting of such a piece of legislation ? What was the occasion and under what pressure did the Government feel prompted to impose Estate Duty on these petty landlords especially at a time when they have exempted the big capitalists from the incidence of so many taxes. Sir, as I have stated already the fact which is even more surprising is that even this contemplated tax is not being imposed directly by our Ministers rather they are offering unconditionally a blank cheque in this matter to the Government of India. On top of all these things it is pronounced that such an action has been necessitated with a view to bringing about a uniformity all over India. If really the Government is anxious to bring about a uniformity, why not recommend a proposal to the Government of India seeking to merge all the existing States of India into one unit ? But, Sir, I think this would absolutely be an impracticable course of action ; for there is a world of difference between the languages, culture and the civilization of the people of the various States. I do not think that the hon. Minister has advanced any other argument excepting the one regarding 'uniformity' in the incidence of tax. It will have very serious consequences. It will result in placing our poor zamindars at the mercy of the Central Government with a liberal authority to the latter to fleece the former as much as it likes.

Besides, Sir, I wish to submit that these people have, in a way, already been paying contributions towards the payment of Death Duty eversince the *zamindara* system came into existence. A similar duty in the form of "*Intkal* tax" is paid on the occasion of the death of each individual Zamindar. This system will, of course, remain in vogue even in future. So, I would like to enquire whether the Government has forgotton these things or whether it is bent upon putting an end even to the material existence of the poor and helpless people ? I fail to understand, Sir, as to why such legislative measures, which seek to levy new taxes on the land owners only, are passed so frequently in this House when there no denying the fact that the people living in palatial houses and rolling luxuries are left scot free.

Leaving aside villages, if you glance at the conditions in the cities you will come across so many concerns like cinemas, factories and banks, etc.

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]

which can, in my opinion, be taxed without causing any material difference to the average tax payer. Has not the Praja Socialist Party which has been termed as the second important political party in the country by our Prime Minister, in its fourteen point proposal, suggested the nationalisation of the big factories and banks all over India ? But it is a matter of deep regret that our Government dare not reach out its hand of taxation to such big concerns. Sir, I make bold to say and I do not think if that is improper to say so that so far as the inhabitants of the Punjab and more particularly the zamindars are concerned ; the Congress Party is deadly against their interests. I do not feel any hesitation in saying that the Government party is bent upon crushing, exploiting and suppressing them. I am sure that not before long, the policy adopted by the Government will convert all the residents of the State into paupers and labourers. It will also impair the prestige which the Punjab commands in the eyes of others. The zamindars of this brave land have been producing great warriors who secured Military Crosses and other distinctions by displaying extraordinary courage in the battlefields in the various wars. But now Sir, with this new tax, I think, the whole dignity and prestige of the State will be done away with and also the courage and enthusiasm at present permeating the minds of the people, will he damped. Therefore, I would like to avail of this opportunity to sound a note of warning to the Government that if the existing economic disparity is allowed to increase amongst the various sections of the people there is every likelihood of the ruralties being compelled to revolt against the Government, and create a revolution in the country. There is also no denying the fact that this autocracy and highhandedness cannot last long. Some day or the other, the Government will have to face a trial before the masses for their omissions and commissions. In view of all these things, therefore, I appeal to the Government to abandon this idea for the present and refrain from throwing us at the mercy of the Government of India. This would evidently be tantamount to surrendering all the democratic rights which the Constitution and the people have vested in it. I would suggest that in this way you should not commit a blunder of getting certain laws passed by the Parliament because this is an admitted fact that afterwards you will not be able to amend them. You may try your level best to bring about amendments but I can say with full confidence that nobody will then pay any heed to your words. I fail to understand as to what emergency has arisen which has necessitated the moving of this resolution in the Punjab Legislature ! I do not know whether any other State has, prior to this day, transferred such powers to

the Central Government. I fail to see why this undue haste is being shown by the Government in this matter. In the end, I wish to state that for the time being, let us adopt the policy of " wait and see ". It would therefore, be in the fitness of things if the Government were to withdraw this Resolution now. Afterwards, let them transfer all their powers to the Central Government if the circumstances so warrant.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, while introducing this resolution the hon. Minister for Development remarked that a very good act was being done by the Government. He appealed to all the Members of the House including those in the Opposition to co-operate with the Government in passing this useful measure.

Whenever a new tax has to be levied on the agriculturists, the Government asks one of its two *jat* Ministers to pilot that measure so that the agriculturists may be led into believing that such a step was being taken in their interest. It has been said that the Government had now decided to take a step which the Members of the Opposition had been pressing it to take but I wish to point out that not many days have passed since the Finance Minister stated in the course of his Budget speech that no new tax would be levied. We find that through this resolution a new tax is going to be levied. The hon. Minister said that the Punjab should take pride in the fact that we are going to take a very wise step. I would request the Government not to bring a bad name to the Punjab by recommending to the Central Government that a duty of this nature should be imposed. The amount which would be levied in the from of Death duty has already got to be paid in the form of fees of the Patwaris and Tehsildars and other expenditure at the time of mutation.

As a matter of fact, these expenses exceed the amount of duty proposed to be levied. The hon Minister for Development knows that a good deal of expenditure has to be incurred for getting mutations effected. In addition to the fees of the Patwaris and Kanungos one has to pay other Government dues also If the Government abolishes all the taxes and levies only one tax on the basis of income-tax, we are prepared to accept such a proposition. The big zamindars should pay tax at a higher rate and the smaller zamindars at a lower rate. If one takes the trouble of going through the Budgets of all the countries of the world, one would find that the burden of taxation on land is the heaviest only in those countries which are under foreign domination. A few years back the heaviest burden of taxation in China was on the land and it was realised in the form of land-revenue but now it occupies the

[Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut]

fourth place among the taxes in that country. The reduction of taxes on land is one of the healthiest signs of a country being free and democratically governed. To go on increasing taxes on land is a practice to be found only in the colonial system and not in free countries. For these reasons, I strongly oppose this resolution. Instead of doing any good we will be bringing bad name to the Government if we pass this resolution. This resolution should not be passed by the House. I would rather request the hon Minister to withdraw it.

Sardar Partap Singh (Mallanwala) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, considerable light has been thrown on the resolution under discussion. I would like to say only this much that the argument that it is essential to pass this resolution in order to have uniformity throughout the country carries no weight. India has a number of States]with varying economic conditions, production and customs. If uniformity is to be achieved, why should it not exist in all the matters? Why should it obtain in the case of Death Duty to be imposed in respect of land only? In my opinion the passing of this resolution will have a very bad effect on the poor agriculturists and it would amount to tyranny over them. The number of big zamindars in the Punjab is very small. About ninety per cent of the zamindars in this State are very poor but instead of remitting the land revenue the Government is going to saddle them with more taxes. An urbanite with an annual income of less than Rs. 4,200 has to pay nothing by way of income-tax but taxes on the rural people are being increaesd. The Government can levy more taxes on the big zamindars and factory-owners but it would be cruel to ask the poor agriculturists to pay more taxes. The Government has already levied Betterment Fee amounting to sixty six crores of rupees and the poor peasants will not be able to escape it. Out of these sixty six crores, fifty-six crores would be charged on account of the canals to be constructed under Bhakra and Nangal Projects but the remaining ten crores would be realised as cost of the production of electricity. It is the height of cruelty that all the new taxes are levied on the poor agriculturists whose condition the Government professes to ameliorate. So these taxes will completely ruin the agriculturists and the rural people who are already groaning under the crushing weight of heavy taxes. They have to pay the local rate, land-revenue, water rate and *Chaukidara* tax. In addition to these they have to incur some other expenditure, too, which is not recorded anywhere. They have to please the Kanungos, Revenue Patwaris and Canal Patwaris. Under these circumstances, it would be highly unjust to levy estate duty of this kind. The greatest injustice which the Government is doing is that we have not

been told the rate at which the Estate Duty would be levied. After we have passed this resolution, the Central Government will be free to levy as much Death Duty as it pleases. This defect must be removed and we should be told the rate at which the proposed duty would be levied. The Government should not go on oppressing only one section of the population and help bringing about those conditions which exist in Pakistan. The rural people should not get the impression that the urban Government wants to ruin them. Where is the hurry in passing this resolution ? We should first see as to what steps the other States take and what will be the rate of the estate duty. Then we can decide what kind of Bill or resolution should be passed.

Shri Mool Chand Jain (Sambhalka) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I am very much surprised to hear the speeches made by the hon. Members of the Opposition on this innocent resolution. I have not been able to understand why they are opposing this resolution. Without imputing any motives to anyone of them I would say that it is all due to their lack of knowledge on the subject. Sometime back when the Estate Duty Bill was discussed in the Parliament Mr. Chintaman Deshmukh had stated that this duty will be levied on the property, the value of which exceeds a particular limit. It is not proper to lay down any limit in this bill which will be fixed later on according to the circumstances. I do not think that the limit will be less than Rs. 2 or 3 lakhs that is, the Bill will not apply to properties the value of which is less than Rs. 2 or 3 lakhs. During the course of discussion today some of the hon. Members of the Congress Party and also of the Opposition Party have talked in such a strain so as to provoke the sentiments of others. I would ask them that if this Bill is to apply to properties valued at Rs. 2 lakhs then in the Jullundur Division where the land of the best quality is available at Rs. 200 per *bigha* even the owners of 1 0 0 bighas of land will not be affected by this measure. In the Ambala Division also a vast area of land will remain unaffected by this measure. My hon. Friends unnecessarily try to bring in the question of urbanites and ruralites on the floor of the House. They must know that apart from agricultural land the Central Government has power to pass such a measure in respect of urban property. The position is that the Central Government cannot pass such legislation in respect of agricultural property unless it has the approval of the State Government. So by passing this resolution, we are only empowering the Central Government to pass such law.

Then, Sir, my hon. Friend has remarked that the Congress Governmentr si the enemy of zamindars and is out to oppress them. I am pained to hea

[Shri Mool Chand Jain]
such things from the hon. Members. I may tell them that we have given an effective counterblast to all these slogans which are now raised by the hon. Members, in this House and were also raised during the the last general elections.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not try to create any bitterness here.

Shri Mool Chand Jain : Sir, I would like to make it clear to my hon. Friends that the Government is not passing this resolution on the consideration of distinctiveness of the urban and rural property but it is only empowering the Central Government so that it may pass a law in respect of agricultural property. I think that this law would apply to the owners of more than 200 bighas of land. My Communist friends often express themselves against the big londlords and shed tears in sympathy for the petty zamindars in this House. But now when this duty is proposed to be levied on the big landlords even then they direct their opposition against such a measure. I may tell them that this law would not affect the small landholders. We are trying to bring about socio-economic independence in the country. We find that income levels in our country reveal a striking contrast as compared with those of other countries. If on the one hand there are some people who indulge in extravagance and luxury on the other, there are people who rot in squalor and misery. It is, therefore, imperative that we should remove economic inequalities in our country. Being influenced by such considerations Acharya Vinoba Bhave is walking from village to village preaching that " haves " should give something to the " have nots ". I feel that if we do not succeed in removing the economic inequality there will bec a bloody revolution in the country within a period of five years. We have to save the country from that bloody revolution which the Communist friends are only too ready to precipitate. They will be right glad if the Congress fails to remove this economic inequality. It is with this objective that this resolution has been introduced in the House. With these words, Sir, I support the resolution.

Shri D. D. Puri (Jagadhri) (*Hindi :* Sir, I am very much surprised to hear the speeches of my Communist friends who have considered the Death Duty as Tax on land. I may tell them that it is not a tax on land but a tax on succession. If we cannot remove the disparity in the income of the rich and the poor people we should at least try that this disparity is removed in the coming generation. It so happens that one person is born in a poor family and the other is born in the family of a Rajpramukh. The former does not even get the barest necessities of life while the latter enjoys all facilities and gets a decent start in life. On the death of his father he inherits large property, huge capital from which he derives

colossal unearned income. So we want to do away with the disparity from the very start by passing this resolution. It is because of this that I had said sometime back that this is not a tax on land but a tax on succession. If any hon. Member opposes this resolution it means that he wants to perpetuate vested interests. Sir, when we want to do away with capitalism and consider cash, factories, etc , as capital, then I would ask why 10,000 acres of land of any zamindar should not be treated as capital. When we are levying death duty on all capital then why should land be treated as sacrosanct and exempted from the purview of this tax. The burden of this death duty should of course fall squarely on the shoulders of agriculturists and non-agriculturists. When any tax is levied on agricultural land and not on the urban property the hon. Members of the Opposition have a grouse and say that the Government is according step-motherly treatment to the zamindars. It is, therefore imperative that the burden of this tax should be spread over evenly without making any distinction between the evacuee and non-evacuee property or between one State and another. We know that the income tax law is operative in all parts of the country. Similarly when Death Duty is being levied in all parts of India then why should Punjab be made an exception.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have heard Sardar Ajmer Singh's speech with great surprise. Again and again, in his speech, he has uttered the word Kisans. May I tell him that this resolution has nothing to do with the peasants as such ? Estate duty is to be levied only on succession to property. An owner of two acres or five acres or ten acres is also called a zamindar but properties of such zamindars will not come within the ambit of this taxation. And if by zamindars, my hon Friend means ' big landlords ' or the system of landlordism, he should know that they have to go and that system has to be abolished sooner or later. When that system has been abolished in other States, why should it continue in the Punjab ? The imposition of Estate Duty means nothing else than that after the death of big landlords their successors will have to make over a share of their patrimony to the State to be utilized for the benefit and betterment of the poorer classes.

Again if by ' peasent ' Sardar Partap Singh meant ' big landlord ' well and good otherwise I am afraid he too is labouring under a misunderstanding. Death duties have not even a remote connection will the peasants. So far as big landlords are concerned, he has expressed himself in favour of the levy of this tax in their case. By passing this Resolution, we have just to signify our acceptance of a principle and to authorize the Parliament on behalf of this State to legislate on the subject. It has not been disclosed nor should it have been as to what will be the exemption limit, whether it

[Minister for Development]

will be 2 lakhs, five lakhs or ten lakhs, beyond which the property of a deceased person will be subjected to this duty. But I can assure the House that while fixing the rate and exemption limit etc, sufficient thought will be given to considerations such as justice, equity, standard of living, valuation of land etc. A Bill will then be introduced in the Parliament but it is not necessary that this mater will continue to be regulated by a central legislation for all time to come. It is quite likely that after some time, we may take over this matter in our own hands and have legislation on this subject enacted by our own Legislature (*Cheers*).

Now I come to the opposition offered by Communist friends. They have, to my mind, no other business but to create misunderstanding somehow or the other. I was amazed to hear them say that the proposed taxation measure will crush the peasant. The fact of the matter is that very few people have studied the theory of Communism and fewer still understand it. If I were a leader of the Communist Party and any member of it were to oppose the levy of Estate Duty, I would certainly turn him out. Sir, how amazing it is that those friends who daily talk of doing away with Capitalism do not even know what Estate Duty is and on whom it is to be levied! I pity the party to which they belong. Sadar Ajmer Singh's complaint as to why Capitalists are being hit is understandable.

Sardar Ajmer Singh : I never said that.

Minister for Development : Sir, after all how many big landlords are there in the Punjab ? In this State, 98 percent of the zamindars are such as own less than 30 acres of land and whose income is below even the exemption limit prescribed in the case of Income Tax. How can the Estate Duty be levied on them ? This taxation is not to affect even those who are well to do.

Shri D. D. Puri : Its impact well fall on people like myself.

Minister for Development : Sir, whenever any taxation proposal comes before the House almost all the hon. Members demand that taxes should be levied on the rich. The impact of this duty is to fall on big zamindars like Raja Raghuvir Singh and why is it being levied ? To liquidate poverty, to finance development schemes and promote the welfare of the people. We are only accepting a principle through this Resolution.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

Whereas it is necessary to make a law providing for the levy of estate duty in respect of agricultural land and WHEREAS any such law relates to

matter enumerated in the State List; THEREFORE, in pursuance of uniformity, this House do resolve, by virtue of clause (1) of Article 252 of the Constitution of India, that it is desirable that Parliament should make the law with respect to matters enumerated in entry 48 of the State List and that matters in relation to the levy of estate duty in respect of agricultural land in the State of Punjab should be regulated by an Act passed by the Parliament under Article 252 aforesaid. The net proceeds of the estate duty charged and collected under the said law in so far as they relate to agricultural lands in the State of Punjab should, however, be assigned towards the public account of the State of Punjab.

The motion was carried.

(The House then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Tuesday, the 7th April, 1953).

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

7th April, 1953.

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 7th April, 1953.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

Rule

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

APPOINTMENT OF HARIJANS IN THE STATE.

***1716. Shri Ram Parkash :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Harijans appointed so far in each department of the State ;

(b) whether the number referred to in part (a) above reaches up to the 19 per cent reservation fixed for Harijans in the services ; if not the extent to which it falls short of the said percentage ;

(c) whether there has been any post for which no suitable Harijan candidate was available and a non-Harijan candidate was appointed ; if so, the nature and number of such posts ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (*a*), *second part of* (*b*) *and the second part of* (*c*) : It is regretted that the information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

Ist part of (*b*) : This percentage has not been reached in most of the departments.

1*st part of* (*c*) : Yes.

REPAIRS OF KUHLS IN DISTRICT KANGRA.

***1708. Shri Kanhaya Lal Butail :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state the amount spent by the Government on the repairs of Ghungrul Kuhl and Mian Dewan Chand Kuhl in the Palampur tehsil of District Kangra ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The amount spent by Government on the repair of Ghagrul Kuhl is Rs. 4,460

No Kuhl by the name of Mian Dewan Chand has been repaired by the Irrigation Branch.

MUD-HUTS IN THE STATE.

***1700. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the time by which and the conditions on which the ownership of the mud-huts in the State will be given to the poor refugees living in the mud-huts together with the steps, if any, so far taken by the Government in this connection ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : The ownership of mud-huts will be transferred to their occupants early next financial year. The statement of conditions on which the mud-huts are proposed to be transferred is enclosed herewith.

All formalities involved in the transfer of huts, except the acquisition of land under Mud-hut Colonies, have more or less been completed. Government are moving speedily in the direction of acquiring the land also.

Shri Ram Kishan : It has been stated in the reply to this question which has been supplied to me that the poor refugees whose claims have been accepted will be given possession of the mud-huts against those claims while those who have no claims etc. will be given the same free of any cost. Will the hon. Minister please state the reason for this differentiation ?

Minister : Those who have nothing are provided huts free of cost. But why should those who have to get some compensation against their claims be not given possession of the mud-huts, as a compensation ?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the Government consider this fact that, if these poor refugees are given the possession of mud-huts in lieu of their compensation, it would cause some hinderance in the way of their rehabilitation because in the first instance this compensation will be a meagre one and, secondly, this will be their only capital ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is making a request. He should ask a question.

Shri Ram Kishan : The hon. Minister has said that the possession of the mud-huts will soon be transferred to the poor refugees. May I know, according to him, how long will this proposal take to materialise ?

Minister : I have already replied to this question in the main reply. However I assure the hon. Member that all the arrangements are complete. The mud-huts have been evaluated. Agreement forms are about to be printed and land is being acquired. In my view, we shall transfer the ownership of the mud-huts to the refugees within two months.

GOPAL MOCHAN FAIR, DISTRICT AMBALA.

***1718. Shri Ram Parkash :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state the total of taxes realised by the Government from the Gopal Mochan Fair, Tehsil Jagadhri, District Ambala, during the years 1937—47 and 1947—52 separately ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Government do not realise any tax from the Gopal Mochan Fair, Tehsil Jagadhri, District Ambala. The taxes realised by the District Board, Ambala from this fair during the years 1937—47 and 1948—52 were Rs 21,149 and Rs 28,042 respectively.

Shri Ram Parkash : Will the hon. Minister please state the amount spent by the District Board, Ambala, on the arrangements etc. regarding the fair, out of the total amount realised by the District Board on the occasion of the fair in the shape of taxes ?

Minister : If my friend had asked this question along with the main question, he would have got the reply. Now a notice is required for it.

Statement kept in the Library.

CHARGING OF EXTRA FARE BY TRANSPORT COMPANIES IN DISTRICT KANGRA.

***1709. Shri Kanhaya Lal Butail :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Valley View and Jubilee Highway Transport Companies in the Kangra District plying buses between Dharmsala and Baijnath and Dharamsala and Palampur Lambagaon are permitted to charge extra fare from the passengers while going to and coming back from Kangra and Palampur *en route* to their destination ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that such buses do not go to stations beyond Palampur and Kangra ;

(c) whether he is further aware of the fact that buses of the New Snow View and New Bir Transport Companies who ply on hire between Pathankot and Baijnath do not charge this extra fare for going to and coming back from Kangra ;

(d) if the answers to parts (a) , (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor and the action Government proposes to take in the matter?

Shri Jagat Narain : (a) No.

(b) It is not a fact that the buses do not go to stations beyond Palampur and Kangra.

(c) The Punjab Government have fixed maximum and minimum rates and the bus companies can charge fare falling within these rates.

(d) Does not arise.

DEMANDS OF SELECTION GRADE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

***1714 : Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government received in January last a representation from the Punjab Provincial Sanitary Inspectors' Association containing their demands ; if so, the nature of those demands ;

(b) whether the demands referred to in part (a) above are different from the demands made earlier which were rejected by the Government—*vide* memo. No. 4482/E.I.3, dated the 22nd September, 1952 ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that the scales of pay of Sanitary Inspectors in the States such as Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bombay and Delhi are higher than those of Sanitary Inspectors in this State ; if so the action taken or proposed to be taken on the representation referred to in part (a) above ?

Shri Jagat Narain : (a) Yes. The Sanitary Inspectors asked for an increase in their scales of pay and for conversion of a few posts of Sanitary Inspectors into Sanitary Inspectors (Selection Grade).

[Minister for Education]

(b) No memo. bearing this number was issued by Government to the Sanitary Inspectors Association, nor a copy of the first representation had been sent up to Government. It, however, appears that the demands put forward by the Association in January are different from those submitted by it previously.

(c) *First part*—Government have no information.

Second part—The matter is being examined by Government.

SCHOOLS IN AMBALA DISTRICT.

***1717. Shri Ram Parkash :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of District Board and Government Schools Tehsil-wise in the rural areas in Ambala District at present ;

(b) the total number of students studying in those schools together with the number of teachers thereon ?

Shri Jagat Narain : (a) and (b) : A statement is given below.

Statement

Name of Tehsil	GOVT. SCHOOLS			D.B. SCHOOLS		
	Number of					
	Schools	Students	Teachers	Schools	Students	Teachers
1 Ambala ..	..	..	..	59	7,979	178
2 Naraingarh ..	1	598	17	69	8,784	206
3 Jagadhri ..	..	..	..	73	9,409	203
4 Rupar ..	..	..	..	74	8,983	236
5 Kharar ..	..	..	..	81	11,010	261

RETRENCHMENT IN THE REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT.

***1711. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to lay on the Table a detailed up-to-date statement about the retrenchment made in the Rehabilitation Department in all the districts of the State as well as the Headquarters in months of January and February, 1953 ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : The required information is placed on the Table:—

The following staff was brought under reduction during the months of January and February, 1953 :—

District and Revenue Staff	No.
Naib-Tehsildars ..	7
Junior Clerks ..	50
Peons ..	50
Office of the Additional Registrar, Co-operative Societies (Headquarters Office)	
Junior Clerks ..	2
(Districts Offices)	
Inspectors ..	7
Sub-Inspectors ..	7
Sub-Inspectress ..	1
Junior Clerks ..	9
Peons ..	8
Office of the Registrar, Land Claims	
Assistant Registrar ..	1
Superintendent ..	1
Section Officers ..	3
Head Assistant ..	1
Assistants ..	3
Claims Assistants ..	42
Senior Clerks ..	10
Junior Clerks ..	45
Daftri ..	1
Peons ..	19
Relief Organisation (Headquarters Offices)	
Senior Clerk ..	1
Junior Clerk ..	1
Districts Offices	
Social Workers in Infirmaries ..	2 (One each at Palwal and Rewari)
Custodian's Department	
Nil.	

[Minister for Finance]

In addition to above, the following posts were retrenched with effect from 1st March 1953.

Rehabilitation Department (Headquarters Offices)		*No.*
Director, Urban Resettlement	..	1
Superintendent	..	1
Assistants	..	3
Senior Stenographer	..	1
Senior Clerks	..	2
Junior Clerks	..	4
Peons	..	2
Clerk of Court's Staff.		
Clerk of Court	..	1
Assistant	..	1
Senior Clerks	..	2
Junior Clerks		2
Peon	..	1
District and Revenue Staff		
Naib-Tehsildars	..	7
Junior Clerks	..	7
Peons	..	7
District Urban Resettlement Staff		
Sub-Inspector	..	1
Peon		1
Junior Clerks	..	3
D.P.I.'s Office		
Senior Clerk		1
Junior Clerk	..	1

Custodian's Department (*Head Office*)

Assistant	..	1
Junior Clerks	..	2
Peons	..	2

(*Sub-Offices*)

Assistant Custodians	..	6
Inspectors	..	4
Sub-Inspectors	..	34
Assistant Accountants	..	4
Head Clerks	..	6
Junior Clerks	..	93
Peons	..	69

MUD-HUT COLONIES IN THE STATE.

*1712. **Shri Ram Kishan**: Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to State the progress, if any, so far made by the Government with regard to the erection of pucca walls, repairs, drainage and provision of other such amenities in all the Mud-hut Colonies of the State?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : A statement indicating the progress so far made on the work of renovation, repairs to mud-huts and public health amenities in the Mud-hut Colonies in the Punjab is given below :—

I—Renovation

(a) Hissar .. Six pucca walls have already been completed; the remaining walls will be completed before the close of the year.

(b) Rohtak .. (i) Out of 100 barracks 18 have been completed up to roof level and the work on the remaining is in progress.

(ii) *Mud-huts in Gandhi Camp.* Eight barracks have been completed up to roof level.

(c) Sonepat .. Work has been let out to the contractor but the same could not be commenced due to non-receipt of coal for burning the bricks.

(d) Gurgaon .. Out of 30 barracks work has been completed on 21 barracks.

[Minister for Finance]

(e) Palwal	..	Work could not be commenced so far because no contractor is forthcoming.	
(f) Rewari	..	Ditto	Ditto
(g) Karnal	..	Work has been allotted to the contractor and is progressing fairly. It is believed that the same will be finished soon.	
(h) Jagadhri	..	Ditto	Ditto
(i) Ambala	..	Ditto	Ditto
(j) Panipat	..	Ditto	Ditto
(k) Mubarikpur	..	Work has not been started as yet because the question of the transfer of land under the mud-huts has not been settled with the Government of India.	
(l) Ferozepore		80 per cent of the work has been completed.	
(m) Ludhiana	..	Ditto	Ditto
(n) Malot	..	Ditto	Ditto
(o) Jullundur	..	Work is in hand and is progressing fairly well.	
(p) Batala	..	Work has been completed.	

II—Repairs of Mud-huts

Except for the work of repairing the Mud-huts occupied by the destitute widows the remaining work has been done by the occupants themselves. Work for repairig the mud-huts occupied by destitute widows will soon be started at Rohtak, Mubarikpur, Panipat, Ambala and Jagadhri.

III—Drainage or other such Public Health Amenities

P.W.D. have since been authorised to take in hand the work of provision of public health amenities in the Mud-hut Colonies in the Punjab.

Shri Ram Kishan: It has been stated in the reply to the question that has been supplied to me that in regard to the carrying out of repairs in the mud-hut colony at Palwal, the work could not be started because no contractor was forthcoming to undertake the work. The same thing has been said in regard to Rewari. I wish to know whether no work of repairs etc., will be carried out at all if no contractor becomes available?

Minister: If no contractors are available, then this work will be got done through the department of the Government.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasishat: About Mubarakpur it has been said:—

Work has not been started as yet because the question of the transfer of land under the mud-huts has not been settled with the Government of India.

Has the question been settled with regard to other places and if so what is the reason that it has not been settled with regard to this place?

Minister: At other places we had to acquire land ourselves. The price fixed at Mubarakpur is excessive and we can't pay that. Correspondence is going on in this connection and the matter will be settled soon.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

***1710. Shri Ram Kishan:** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to lay on the Table, a detailed up-to-date statement regarding the retrenchment made in the Civil Supplies, Food and Rationing Department in all the districts of the State as well as at the headquarters during the months of January and February, 1953 ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Statements, I, II and III showing the retrenchment made in the districts as well as headquarters staff of the Food, Civil Supplies and Rationing Department in the month of February, 1953, are given below. No retrenchment was made in the month of January, 1953.

I—Statement showing the posts reduced on the Civil Supplies and Rationing Side in Districts

Serial No.	Name of Post	Scale of pay	Number of posts reduced with effect from 28-2-53 (afternoon)
1	2	3	4
		Rs	
1	Assistant Organiser, Civil Supplies and Rationing (Gazetted) ..	250—25—550/25—750	1
2	Assistant Transport Officer (Gazetted) ..	275—25—500/30—650/30—800	1
3	Assistant Textile Liaison and Purchase Officer (Gazetted) ..	300—20—500	1
4	Civil Supplies Distribution Officer (Gazetted)	200—25—450	13
5	Ward Rationing Officer (Gazetted) ..	,, ,,	2
6	Town Rationing Officer (Gazetted) ..	,, ,,	1
7	Assistant Rationing Officer/Assistant Ward Rationing Officer	150—15—240 / 150—10—250	3
8	Assistant Fuel Control Officer ..	150—10—250	1
9	Fuel Inspector ..	80—5—140/7½—185	6
10	Inspector, Civil Supplies ..	,, ,,	21
11	Enquiry Officer ..	80—5—140/7½—185	15
12	Fuel Sub-Inspector ..	65—4—105	1

[Minister for Local Government]

Serial No.	Name of Post	Scale of Pay	Number of posts reduced with effect from 28-2-53 (afternoon)
1	2	3	4
13	Sub-Inspector, Civil Supplies ..	65—4—105	70
14	Assistant Enquiry Officer ..	,, ,,	11
15	Head Clerk ..	110—7—145/8—185	1
16	Head Clerk ..	80—5—110/5—150	1
17	Stenographer ..	100—5—150	9
18	Stenographer ..	150—10—200/10—300	1
19	Stenographer ..	100—5—150/5—175	1
20	Senior Clerk ..	60—4—80/5—120	6
21	Junior Clerk ..	50—3—80/4—100	11
22	Steno-typist ..	50—3—80/4—100 *plus* Rs 15 as special pay	1
23	Junior Clerk ..	60—4—80/5—120	5
24	Peon ..	20—½—25	56
		Total	239

II—Statement showing posts reduced on the Food Side in Districts

Serial No.	Name of post	Scale of pay	Number of posts reduced with effect from 28-2-53 (afternoon)
1	2	3	4
1	District Food Controller ..	Rs 250—25—500/25—750	2
2	Foodgrains Inspector ..	80—5—130/6—190	5
3	Foodgrains Sub-Inspector ..	65—4—105	30
4	Foodgrains Supervisor ..	50—3—80/4—100 (at Rs 62 per mensem)	1
5	Peon ..	20—½—25	2
6	Steno ..	100—5—150	2
		Total	42

III—Statement showing number of posts reduced at the Headquarters

Serial No.	Name of post	Scale of pay	Number of posts reduced with effect from 28-2-53 (afternoon)	REMARKS
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs		
1	Director, Food and Civil Supplies ..	Senior Scale of I. A. S	1	One post of Deputy Director Food to be added
2	Provincial Cloth Control Officer	250—25—550/25—750 *plus* Rs 50 per mensem Special Pay	1	
3	Assistant Director, Food Purchase ..	350—25—500/30—650 *plus* Rs 50 per mensem Special Pay	1	
4	Assistant Director, Food Rationing ..	P.C.S. Scale *plus* Rs 50 per mensem Special Pay	1	
5	Superintendent ..	350—20—450	1	One post of Deputy Superintendent to be increased
6	Assistant-In-Charge ..	150—10—200/10—300 *plus* Rs 20 per mensem Special Pay	1	
7	Assistant ..	150—10—200/10—300 116—8—180/10—250	13	
8	Senior Auditor (i) ..	200—20—360/20—500 (for S. A. S. men) 175—15—295/15—400 others	2	
	„ „ (ii)	150—10—200/10—300 *plus* Rs 30 per mensem Special Pay		
9	Junior Auditor ..	80—5—120/5—175 *plus* Rs20 per mensem Special Pay 80—5—120/8—200—10—220	4	
10	Fuel Inspector ..	80—5—140/7½—185	2	
11	Mobile Inspector ..	80—5—130/6—190	1	
12	Steel Control Inspector ..	200—15—350/15—500	2	
13	Higher Grade Assistant ..	300—20—500	1	
14	Senior Clerk ..	90—5—120/5—175 80—5—110/5—150	8	
15	Junior Clerk ..	60—4—80/5—120 50—3—80/4—100	13	
16	Stenographer ..	100—5—150/5—175	3	
17	Steno-Typist ..	50—3—80/4—100 *plus* Rs 15 as Stenography Allowance	1	
18	Peons ..	20—½—25	12	
		Total	68	

GIVING OF GRANTS-IN-AID TO UPROOTED SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

***1728. Sardar Ajmer Singh:** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the uprooted schools which were on the list of aided institutions in the West Punjab before partition are not being given any maintenance grants on their revival in the East Punjab; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) when it is expected that they would be brought on the grant-in-aid list;

(c) whether an application from the displaced Pothohar Sayyad Khalsa High School for the allotment of the Islamia High School, Jullundur, was received by the Government; if so, the action taken thereon?

Shri Jagat Narain: (a) Disrupted schools were given rehabilitation grant by the Union Government during the years 1950-51 and 1951-52; hence they were not considered for maintenance grant during these years. They are being considered for special grant during the current financial year.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) The management applied for the allotment of building of the Islamia High School, Ludhiana. Their request was not accepted as this building is required for the local Government Girls High School.

Shri Babu Dayal: Is not the Meo High School, Nuh included in the displaced schools and in case it is included, will this school get some share from this money?

Minister : I have not followed the question.

Mr. Speaker: The question may be repeated as the Minister has not followed.

Shri Babu Dayal: What I wished to inquire was whether schools which were uprooted on this side like the schools of the West Punjab will also get some help?

Mr. Speaker: This question does not arise.

REGISTRATION OF CASE OF AUDIT IRREGULARITIES.

***1720. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht:** Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether any case, as a result of the detection of irregularities by the Audit Department in the office of the Controller of Printing and Stationery, in connection with the Central Workshop Amritsar, was registered with the police; if so, when;

(b) whether any protection was given by the Government to the staff of the Printing Department who helped in the detection of the said irregularities?

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: (a) Yes. In July 1952.

(b) The irregularity was brought to notice by the Accountant-General, Punjab, and not by any member of the staff of the Printing Department.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: What has been done so far?

Minister: The matter is under consideration.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht: The hon. Minister has said that the members of the staff did not help in detection but I ask, is it not correct to say that some people had asked for protection?

Minister : The staff is treated in accordance with rules and if the rules so provide, the Government helps them.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: The hon. Minister was good enough to say that the case had been forwarded to the Police. But then he further said that it was under consideration. I ask, was the case forwarded to the Police without any consideration?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Sir, it is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker: But this question does not arise out of the main question.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Then I will ask another supplementary. It is a very sensational and important case. What steps have been taken by the Government in this connection?

Chief Minister: The case has been forwarded to the authority that has to deal with it.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: About nine months have passed since July and I wish to know as to what steps have been taken to speed up the case if the Police is not doing its duty?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is a very old parliamentarian. Will he tell me how his supplementary arises out of the main question?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Sir, the matter under reference being very important, I want to know whether the Government has adopted any special measures for its speedy disposal?

Mr. Speaker: This question does not arise.

SHORTAGE OF ROUTINE NOTES IN THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT, PUNJAB.

***1722. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht**: Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a special audit report was submitted by the Accountant-General, Punjab, to the Government in connection with shortage of 258,000 routine notes in the store of the Punjab Printing Department, Simla; if so, the action, if any, taken by the Government therein?

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: Yes. The matter is being examined in consultation with the Accountant-General, Punjab.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Since when is it under consideration and for how long will it remain so?

Minister: This case was sent up for audit report on the 5th November 1951 and the audit report was received in March. We then asked for comments from the Controller and they were made available on the 9th July. Now the case is with the Accountant-General along with the comments since the 15th July.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: What happened thereafter?

Minister: For that the hon. Member should give notice.

SHIFTING OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO CHANDIGARH.

***1721. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht:** Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the order by which the offices of Government Departments or particular sections of Departments have been or are being shifted from Simla to Chandigarh during the current year and in the ensuing year, i.e., by the end of March 31, 1954;

(b) whether any considerations of economy or better administration or both have guided the Government in determining the priority as between the departments in regard to shifting to Chandigarh;

(c) the date by which the building of the Assembly Chamber would be completed for holding a Session of the Legislature at Chandigarh?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) A list showing the priority of various departments of which camp offices mostly will move down to Chandigarh is given below. Later programme has not yet been made.

(b) Yes.

(c) The buildings of the Assembly Chamber at Chandigarh are expected to be completed by January, 1955. Government, however, consider that it will be possible to hold the next Budget Session of the Legislature in the New Capital in some other building.

List showing the priority between departments for moving down to Chandigarh.

1. Chief Administrator and Secretary, Capital. (Already moved down).
2. Director of Public Instruction.
3. Chief Engineer, Electricity, with Project Division.
4. Director of Health Services.
5. P.W.D., Buildings and Roads Branch.
6. Provincial Transport Controller.

7. Director of Agriculture.

8. Assembly office. } Whole.

9. Council office. }

10. Financial Commissioner, Revenue.

11. Financial Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation.

12. Development Commissioner.

13. Finance Department (whole).

14. Legislative Department (whole).

15. Central Police Offices.

16. Civil Secretariat.

17. Director of Public Relations.

18. P.W.D., Irrigation Branch.

19. Director of Industries.

ERECTION OF A MEMORIAL AT THE BANK OF RIVER SUTLEJ

*1713. **Shri Ram Kishan**: Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to make any memorial at the bank of River Sutlej near Phillaur where the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi Ji were immersed on the 12th February, 1948; if so, the details of the proposal?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: No such proposal is under consideration of Government.

COMMUNITY PROJECT STAFF IN TEHSIL JAGADHRI, DISTRICT AMBALA.

*1729. **Shri Ram Kishan**: Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the expenditure on pay, Travelling Allowance etc. incurred by the Government on the Community Project staff posted in Tehsil Jagadhri, District Ambala, upto February, 1953, from the date they took over ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon: Rs. 32, 662-8-3 as detailed below:—

(1) Pay	.. Rs. 12,301-13-0
(2) Travelling Allowance	.. Rs. 2,965-2-0
(3) Other Allowances and Honoraria	.. Rs. 6,243-5-0
(4) Contingencies	.. Rs. 11,152-4-3

REPRESENTATION FROM HARIJANS AND OTHER VILLAGERS OF VILLAGES THAMBER, BIHTA AND KALPI, DISTRICT AMBALA.

***1730. Shri Ram Parkash** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether any representation has been received by the Government from the Harijans and other villagers of villages Thamber, Bihta and Kalpi, Teshil and District Ambala, in connection with non-allotment of Abadi Deh and leaving less space in land consolidation; if so, the action, if any, Government proposes to take thereon?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

PART I.

Yes. A representation was made by the Harijans and other non-land owners of Villages Thambar and Bihta only.

PART II.

The Consolidation Department cannot interfere or allot any land to anyone within the *lal lakir* of Abadi Deh.

As for allotment of *baras* beyond Abadi Deh, the request could not be acceded to as the non-proprietors did not come forward to get land on payment at *Rs*. 200 *per standard biswa*, i.e. $1\frac{13}{20}$ marlas which was necessary in accordance with the provisions of the approved scheme of consolidation. As the price fixed in the approved scheme is too high, it is proposed to issue orders to prepare a fresh draft scheme and re-consolidate the village.

The Consolidation operations have not yet been started in Village Kalpi.

Shri Ram Parkash: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state how long it would take the Government to issue such an order?

Minister for Development: This order would be issued after the expiry of this Session.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN REFUGEES' TOWNSHIPS IN THE STATE.

***1725. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht**: Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the nature of unemployment and the approximate number of the unemployed in each refugee township in the State at present;

(b) the measures, if any, adopted by the Government including the establishment of work centres, to solve the unemployment problem referred to above with the approximate number benefited thereby in each refugee camp of the State;

(c) the work facilities, if any, provided, specially for widows with particular reference to the townships at Gurgaon, Faridabad and Palwal?

Sardar Ujjal Singh: (a) A Census to find out the number of the unemployed in each refugee township in the State was never held and the desired information is not readily available. The time and labour involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with any possible advantage to be obtained from it.

(b) To remove unemployment in the camps, Work Centres, Training-cum-Production Centres in Women Homes and Infirmaries, to provide work for the inmates of the camps and Vocational Training Centres to train the displaced boys in various crafts were started near various camps. At present, 15 Work Centres, 5 Training-cum-Production Centres in Infirmaries, are working at Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, Yamunanagar, Panipat, Karnal, Sonepat, Rohtak and Hissar, and are employing about 1,100 workers. Out of these, 580 are residents of camps and the remaining are displaced persons from outside the camps. In addition, over 10,000 displaced persons have been trained in different trades to enable them to earn independent living and about 1,200 persons are under training.

(c) No Work Centres or Training-cum-Production Centres are functioning at Faridabad and Gurgaon. One Training-cum-Production Centre in the Infirmary is functioning at Palwal.

Shrimati Shanno Devi: Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state what arrangements have been made by the Government to provide work to the refugees who are at present living in Palwal Camp?

Minister: Unemployment might exist but no other arrangements have been made except that when these people have set up their Co-operative Societies they would be advanced loans to set up some industry. Government has also established centres to look after the infirm and weak persons.

Shrimati Shanno Devi: The hon. Minister should not say that 'unemployment might exist'. The fact is that unemployment does exist and a large number of people are not in a position to learn any trade.

Minister: So far as the question of unemployment is concerned I do not disagree with the hon. Lady Member. What I mean to submit is that I do not possess full information about it.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht: Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state how unemployment can be removed unless and until Government makes an all-out effort to provide work to the people?

Minister: There is no special scheme in this connection under the consideration of the Government but efforts are being made to make arrangements in the new townships to give training to the people in different trades. In this connection. I have already stated that as many as 10,000 persons have learnt different trades and about 12,000 persons are at present receiving training. The Government would also advance loans to persons who, after receiving the necessary training, would be willing to start their own work and the amount of loans can be further increased. However, the preparation of a scheme for removing unemployment from the whole of the country is not possible at this stage.

ABOLITION OF VERNACULAR FINAL EXAMINATION IN THE STATE.

***1723. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht:** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the reasons which led the Government to abolish the Vernacular Final Examination in the State together with the net saving, if any, achieved as a result of this abolition?

Shri Jagat Narain: The following reasons led the Government to abolish the Middle School Examination for boys and the Middle Standard Examination for Indian Girls:—

1. Educationally and psychologically, the Middle Examinations which were instituted at a time when boys and girls of higher age-group prepared for them had become an anachronism.

2. To clamp on children of less than 14 years of age a formal external examination was injurious for their health and mental development.

3. These Examinations had outlived their utility as very few candidates gave up their studies at the termination of middle stage.

4. There being a large number of Matriculates available for entry into the teaching profession at the lowest rung and for a few other jobs like that of a Patwari for which a Middle School Certificate was the minimum qualification, the holders of Middle Certificates were easily squeezed out for appointment to such posts.

5. In U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Pepsu, these examinations had already been scrapped.

6. The running of these examinations incurred to Government a loss of Rs 5 approximately per candidate in the past.

7. A total saving of Rs. 1,00,000 to Government per year has been achieved as a result of the abolition of these examinations.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht: I had particularly asked what savings have been effected by abolishing this examination?

Mr. Speaker: It has been said that the Government had to lose Rs. 5 for every student in conducting this examination.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit: It has been stated by the hon. Minister that now as a Middle pass does not get any service there is no necessity of conducting this examination. I am afraid that in future he may not think that as the Matriculates do not get service this examination may also be abolished.

Development Minister: If need be, we would take this step.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE HEAD MASTER, GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, PALWAL, DISTRICT GURGAON.

***1724. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht:** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government has recently received any complaints against the Head Master, Government High School, Palwal, District Gurgaon; if so, the action, if any, taken by the Government thereon?

Shri Jagat Narain: Yes, complaints have been received and the explanation of the Head Master was obtained. Many of the points in the complaint have been rebutted by the Head Master in his explanation. There seems to be some ground for personal annoyance of some citizens. As the Head Master and the Second Master were only recently transferred the request for their transfer cannot be considered for some time.

CUTS IN THE PAY OF EMPLOYEES IN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

***1776. Shri Wadhawa Ram**: Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain cuts are made in the pay of the employees in the Police Department; if so, the details thereof together with the rules under which they are made?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: No compulsory cuts are made from the pay of Police personnel. Policemen, however, contribute towards certain funds maintained for their general welfare, on a voluntary basis.

CHANGE IN THE DESIGNATION OF PERSONAL ASSISTANTS TO MINISTERS.

***1780. Shri Ram Kishan**: Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the P.A's to the Ministers have been designated as Private Secretaries; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether this change has resulted in an increase in their emoluments in any way; if so, to what extent?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: (a) Yes. This change has been made to conform to the designation of similar posts in the Government of India.

(b) No.

APPOINTMENT OF REORGANISATION COMMITTEE IN THE STATE.

***1781. Shri Ram Kishan**: Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any re-organisation committee has been appointed by the Government to recommend changes in the administrative organisation in the State; if so, the names of the members of the said Committee and the dates of their respective appointments;

(b) the terms of reference and the period, if any, fixed for submitting the report?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: (a) Yes. A committee consisting of the Commissioner, Jullundur Division, Commissioner, Ambala Division, and the Finance Secretary to Government, Punjab, was appointed for the purpose on the 14th February 1951. They are still its members although changes amongst the Commissioners have been taking place.

(b) The terms of reference of this Committee were not rigidly defined. It had to examine and make recommendations regarding the reorganisation of the district offices in order to evolve and establish a district administration

[Chief Minister]
capable of dealing effectively and efficiently with the changed circumstances in the State. No period was fixed for submitting the report of the Commitee, but it is hoped that it will be ready very shortly.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Will the Minister please say whether that Committee consulted any Bar Association or some other political body in this connection?

Chief Minister: I have already stated that the report of this Committee has not yet been received and therefore, no reply can be given to this question.

CASE OF PROMOTIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS IN IRRIGATION SECRETARIAT, SIMLA.

***1759. Shri Wadhawa Ram**: Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state—

(a) the number of temporary and permanent posts of Assistants and clerks respectively, sanctioned in the Irrigation Secretariat, Simla;

(b) the number of Assistants and clerks who have yet to be confirmed, and since how long, together with the reasons for the delay in confirmations in each case;

(c) the time by which the cases of promotions or confirmations referred to above are likely to be decided?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(a) Assistants .. 31 permanent +43 temporary

Clerks I grade 23 permanent +19 temporary

Clerks II grade 34 permanent +65 temporary

(b) Assistants 15 —
- 8 against cadre vacancies from 1st February 1949.
- 1 from 14th November 1949.
- 1 from 27th May 1951.
- 1 from 30th January 1952.
- 1 from 3rd March 1952.
- 1 from 24th August 1952.
- 1 from 15th January 1953.
- 1 from 14th February 1953.

Clerks I grade 19 —
- 12 cadre vacancies from 1st February 1949.
- 7 from various dates as shown against Assistants.

Clerks II grade 39 —
- 32 cadre vacancies from 1st February 1949.
- 7 from various dates as shown against Assistants

The delay was unavoidable, as after the partition, the policy regulating the fixation of seniority of officials recruited from the circles *vis-a-vis* those already in the Secretariat had to be thoroughly sifted and orders of Government had to be obtained. This has now been done. Confirmation cases at present are awaiting Finance Department's advice on certain important points involved.

(c) As soon as position as per (b) above crystalizes.

CREATION OF G.M.F. SECTION IN IRRIGATION SECRETARIAT.

***1760. Shri Wadhawa Ram**: Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the sanction for the creation of a new section, namely, G.M.F. Section in the Irrigation Secretariat was conveyed by the Finance Department; if so, the date on which the said sanction was conveyed;

(b) the strength of the staff so sanctioned together with their grades of pay and other allowances, etc.;

(c) the staff employed so far against the above sanction?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: (a) Yes, on the 5th December, 1952.

(b) One Deputy Superintendent in the scale of Rs. 150—10—200/10—300 *plus* Rs. 50 per month as special pay.

Two Assistants in the scale of Rs. 150—10—200/10—300.

One Clerk, I Grade, in the scale of Rs. 90—5—120/5—175.

One Clerk, II Grade, in the scale of Rs. 60—4—80/5—120.

One peon in the scale of Rs. 20—½—25.

Other usual allowances as sanctioned by the Government from time to time have also to be allowed.

(c) One Clerk, I Grade and one Clerk, II Grade.

PAYMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF PROVIDENT FUND, ETC., TO SHRIMATI SHIV DEVI.

***1766. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state —

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Shrimati Shiv Devi is the widow of Shri Niranjan Singh, a Lorry Driver (Lyallpur Electricity Division), who was murdered at Sheikhupura in August, 1947 while on duty ;

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

(b) whether he is further aware of the fact that the said widow applied for the payment of the amount of Provident Fund and other compensation due to her deceased husband;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Chief Engineer, Electricity, has accepted her claim and that the question of payment of Provident Fund and other compensation is under his active consideration ; if so, the date when her claim shall be finally settled ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) (i) *Punjab Contributory Provident Fund.* In order to mitigate the hardship caused to the deceased's wife, the Accountant-General, Punjab (India), offered her on 14th June 1951 a provisional payment of Rs. 844 on the execution of an Indemnity Bond, but it appears that she has not so far executed the said Bond to get the payment. Her case for the final payment of the fund accumulations has since been completed and the Accountant-General, Punjab (India), is being pressed to expedite action so that payment is made to her. Action is also being taken for making payment of the other dues of the widow.

Shrimati Sita Devi: As this case has been hanging fire since 1947, will the Minister please say if he has issued any orders fixing some time-limit for its disposal ?

Minister : Representation in this case was made in 1948. We made a reference to the Pakistan Government and a reply was received in 1951 after a number of reminders. So long as the Pakistan Government does not verify the claim it is not possible for our Government to make payment. Yet we have agreed to the payment of Rs. 844. It is true that this claim has been pending for 2 or 3 years but we have been repeatedly reminding Pakistan in this connection. If the hon. Lady Member wants to acquaint herself with the details, I shall be glad to meet her wish.

GARDEN ON OUTLET NO. 13748/R IN DISTRICT FEROZEPUR.

***1802. Sardar Partap Singh** (Ratta Khera) : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any garden on outlet No. 13748/R, Rajbaha Panjava, Dangar Khera Minor, Sirhind Canal, Tehsil Fazilka, District Ferozepur; if so, the area of the garden and the quantity of canal water granted to the garden per week;

(b) whether the canal water was granted to the garden by extending the said outlet; if not, the steps taken by the Government to make up the loss in this respect of other small owners;

(c) the date on which the canal water for the above garden was granted;

(d) the maximum period for which canal water is granted for the maturity of a garden;

(e) the area of land seasonwise irrigated by other land-owners on the above-mentioned outlet before and after the grant of water to the garden referred to above upto the year 1952;

(f) whether there is any penalty provided, if at any stage it is found that water taken ostensibly for irrigating a garden was in fact obtained for other crops; if so, the amount of penalty per acre per year?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: (a) Yes, there is one garden of 50 acres on the said outlet. 39 hours and 40 minutes *wari* per week is sanctioned for this garden.

(b) Outlet not adjusted as it was already overdrawing even after giving enhanced supply for garden.

(c) The *wari* for the garden was granted on 12th September 1947.

(d) Extra garden supply is permitted so long as the garden lasts.

(e) Actual irrigation figures of the shareholders other than Shri Mohinder Singh before and after sanction of the *warabandi*, against the annual permissible area of 233 are as below :—

Kharif 1947	..	207	367
Rabi 1947-48	..	160	
Kharif 1948	..		Figures not available
Rabi 1948-49	..		
Kharif 1948	..	139	267
Rabi 1949-50	..	128	
Kharif 1950	..	133	243
Rabi 1950-51	..	110	
Kharif 1951	..	93	200
Rabi 1951-52	..	107	
Kharif 1952	..	122	

The irrigation depends upon the river Supply during the year, which varies from year to year.

(f) Yes as per para No. 1 of the Agreement (Stereo I.B. Form No. 463) and rule 10 of the Rules governing supply of extra water for gardens. Special charges are levied for unauthorised use of water. (Copies of para No. 1 of the agreement and rule 10 of the Rules governing supply of extra water are enclosed).

[Minister for Irrigation]

Paragraph 1 of the Agreement for special supply of watet for fruit orchards (Stero I.B.No. 463)

The supply given to the aforesaid area under this agreement will be at the rate of— cusecs outlet capacity under full supply conditions in the Distributary, per thousand acres and will not be utilised except for the fruit to Orchard. The use of the supply for purposes other than for the fruit orchard will be considered as unauthorized irrigation under rule 33 of the Rules issued under the Canal Act VIII of 1873.

Rule 10 for Extra Supplp of Canal Water for Gardens and Orchards.

An agreement will have to be entered into between the Government and the owner receiving extra supply for an orchard as per existing form (Stereo I. B. No. 463). The essential condition is that abiana shall be charged at the schedule rate for fruit orchards on the whole area in each crop season for which extra supply is sanctioned irrespective of whether the whole of this area is actually irrigated or not. Also abiana shall be paid in the non-fruit bearing stage.

REFUND OF SECURITIES OF STUDENTS OF GOVERNMENT DYEING AND CALICO PRINTING INSTITUTE, LUDHIANA.

*1778. **Dewan Jagdish Chandra :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the securities of students who joined the Government Dyeing and Calico Printing Institute, Ludhiana, in the year 1949 and got their diplomas in the year 1952, have not so far been refunded by the authorities of the said Institution ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether the said securities are to be refunded by the Government ; if so, when ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) and (b) Securities of all students who joined in 1949 and completed their courses at the Government Institute of Dyeing and Calico Printing, Ludhiana, have been refunded.

EXTENT OF CUT IMPOSED ON THE ALLOTMENT OF URBAN LAND.

*1803. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to State —

(a) the extent of cut that has been imposed by the Government on the allotment of urban land to the allottees owning rural land before 22nd July 1952 ;

(b) the extent of cut that is being imposed by the Government at present and a copy of the rule according to which the cut is being imposed be laid on the Table ;

(c) the list of the allottees affected by the cut referred to above ;

(d) whether he is aware of the fact that the Central Government has issued an order that no allotment of land should be cancelled after 22nd July 1952 ; if so, whether any allotments have been cancelled after 22nd July 1952 ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a), (b) and (c) Evacuee lands within the urban limits are not allotable. Question of cut on holdings does not arise.

(d) Yes. The instructions in question, however, apply only to rural evacuee lands allotted on quasi-permanent basis. No such allotment has been cancelled against the provisions contained in these instructions.

Shri Ram Kishan: Will the Minister kindly say whether the term 'rural lands' includes suburban lands ?

Minister : Yes, suburban lands are included in the rural lands.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister be prepared to reconsider the cases in which the allotment of suburban lands was cancelled in contravention of the rules ?

Minister : The allotment in respect of certain lands has been cancelled due to a special difficulty. We adopted a special method to meet a special emergency in the matter of these cancellations. Some rural people had settled there and a cut had to be imposed while allotting suburban lands to them because, otherwise, they were not entitled to those lands.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Minister has admitted that suburban lands are included in the rural lands. Then, will he tell us why these were treated as a separate category for the purpose of allotment ?

Minister : A cut had to be applied in the case of those people who were not entitled to suburban lands but wanted to have lands of that category. Otherwise, how on earth could we meet the claims of all persons ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Minister has admitted that allotment in respect of certain lands has been cancelled according to the method described by him. May I know whether some allotments have been cancelled even after 22nd July 1952 ?

Minister : The rural lands in respect of which the allotments were previously cancelled were reallotted to those people and no allotment of this category has been cancelled after the issue of the new orders.

Shri Ram Kishan: May I ask whether one Sardar Indar Singh has submitted to him an application in this connection ?

Minister : I do not remember having received such an application. However, if my hon. Friend will give notice of this question I shall be able to give a definite reply.

REINSTATEMENT OF ALLOTTEES.

***1804. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether any orders for the reinstatement of allottees in whose cases the orders for cancellation were passed by the Government after 22nd July 1952, have since been issued ; if so, their list?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) Yes.

(b) Such cases were only few and all the allottees have been restored to their allotments, excepting rural allottees sitting in suburban areas. The time and labour involved in the collection of the data from the districts will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The Minister has stated that all the allotments cancelled upto this date will be restored again. I am to submit that in many a case the allotments were cancelled purposely but so far, these have not been restored. Will he kindly state whether he has issued any instructions that the possession of lands should be given by a particular date ?

Minister : I have got a copy of the notification issued by the Financial Commissioner to all the Deputy Commissioners, asking them to arrange for the restoration of possessions of all those lands the allotments of which were cancelled after the 22nd July. In this way land has been restored in all the cases save those pertaining to the suburban lands which I have already referred to. Besides if there are any such cases where these orders might not have been implemented, I shall be very glad to investigate into them if the hon. Lady Member brings them to my notice.

REPRESENTATION FROM THE INHABITANTS OF JAIJON DOABA.

*1763. **Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether any representation was received by the Government from the inhabitants of Jaijon Doaba (Hoshiarpur District) for dissolving the Town Committee and establishing a Panchayat for the town ; if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : *Part first*—Yes.

Part Second—The Committee has been abolished and steps are being taken for establishing a Panchayat at Jaijon.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE MEMBERS OF TOWN COMMITTEE, JAIJON DOABA.

*1764. **Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether any complaints against the members of the Town Committee, Jaijon Doaba have recently been received by the Government ; if so, the nature thereof, and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : *First part*—Yes.

Second Part—The complaints contained vague and sweeping allegations of neglect of duties and waste of public money, on the basis of which no action could be taken against the members. However, on account of a marked drop in its population and other factors the Committee has since been abolished and will be replaced by a Panchayat.

MEDICAL SPECIALIST ATTACHED TO CIVIL HOSPITAL JULLUNDUR.

*1752. **Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the qualifications of the Medical Specialist attached to the Civil Hospital, Jullundur ?

Shri Jagat Narain : M.B.B.S.

GOVERNMENT CENTRAL WORKSHOP, AMRITSAR.

*1750. **Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit :** Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the strike of Government Central Workshop, Amritsar, was withdrawn by the workers on February 6, 1952 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that at the time of the withdrawal of the strike, assurances were given by the Government that the prosecutions started against the workers and Trade Unionists in connection with the strike will be withdrawn; if so, whether the cases have been withdrawn so far by the Government ?

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : (a) The strike in the Government Central Workshop, Amritsar, was withdrawn by the workers on the 12th February 1952 and not on the 6th February 1952.

(b) No. As a result of review, however, all the cases against the workers connected with the strike were withdrawn except the Oriental Carpet Factory, Chheharta case.

TEXTILE FACTORIES IN LUDHIANA, AMRITSAR AND JULLUNDUR.

*1751. **Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit :** Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Textile Factories in Ludhiana, Amritsar and Jullundur that were working in February 1952, together with the number of those working at present ;

(b) the number of workers employed in these factories in February, 1952 and the number of workers working there at present ;

(c) the number of Iron Foundries and Workshops that were working in Batala and Jullundur in February, 1952, and the number of those working at present ;

(d) the number of workers employed in these Foundries and Workshops in February, 1952 and the number of workers working there at present ;

(e) the reason for the large-scale closing down of Textile Factories, Iron Foundries and Workshops in the State ;

(f) the steps Government proposes to take to help the Industries and give relief to the unemployed ?

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : The relevant information is given below:—

	1952		1953	
(a) Ludhiana ..	Power-loom	Hand-loom	Power-loom	Hand-loom
	180	270	130	70

Amritsar .. There are about 170 registered factories and about 400 unregistered establishments which are dealing in Textile and allied industries, besides about 7 to 8 hundred family units dealing with the handloom employment in remote villages.

Jullundur ..	Number of factories worked during February, 1952.	Number of factories worked in February 1953.
	6	5

	1952		1953	
(b) Ludhiana ..	Power-loom	Hand-loom	Power-loom	Hand-loom
	2,400	3,000	1,400	1,000

Jullundur ..	Number of workers in February, 1952	Number of workers in February, 1953
	225	233

Amritsar .. There are about 15 to 20 thousand workers, including children and women employed in the textile and allied industries in the entire district.

		February 1952	*February* 1953
(c) Batala	..	105	70
Jullundur	..	75	68
(d) Batala	..	2,500	700
Jullundur	..	1,904	1,233

(e) The reasons for closing down of the textile factories are that during the year 1952, there was scarcity of Mill-made cloth and in order to meet their requirements, the public had to buy the cloth manufactured by the power-looms and hand-looms. During the year 1953 the Mill-made cloth was available in abundance, and accordingly the demand for power-loom and hand-loom cloth decreased and as a result of general slump in the market, most of the textile factories were closed. The reasons for closing down of the iron foundries and workshops are that the demand for the agricultural implements has decreased. Moreover, the iron foundries, manufacturing chaff-cutters etc. have shown their inability to introduce any other substitute in place of these articles and had to close their business due to slump in the market.

(f) In order to fill the gap created by the flight of capital from the Punjab after partition and to accelerate the industrial development of the State, a State Financial Corporation has recently been set up with an authorised capital of two crores with headquarters at Jullundur. This Corporation will advance long-term loans to the industrialists. To develop the cycle parts industry which is at present one of the most important cottage industries in the State it is proposed to set up a Finishing and Testing Centre for cycle parts industry at Ludhiana. With the migration of Muslims, the Pashmina weaving industry at Nurpur had become extinct. In order to revive the industry and to mitigate the hardship of Pashmina spinners, it is proposed to set up a centre for imparting training and development of Pashmina industry at Nurpur in Kangra District. In pursuance of the decision of the Cottage Industries Board, it has been decided to send good quality products of cottage industries of the State for exhibition in the Show Rooms of the Trade Commissioners in certain foreign countries and thus help the cottage workers in marketing their goods.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO POLITICAL SUFFERERS IN THE STATE.

357. Shri Babu Dyal Sharma : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government has received any applications from the political sufferers for the allotment of lands in the State ; if so, the action Government intends taking on such applications ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) Yes.

(b) A committee has been appointed by Government to scrutinize the claims and make recommendations for allotment. Action is being taken to call a meeting of the committee for scrutinizing these claims, after which final selection of 320 political sufferers will be made and allotment of land begun.

FIXATION OF INSTALMENTS FOR THE RECOVERY OF COST OF ADDITIONAL POLICE POST OF VILLAGE KACHA PAKKA, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

358. Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any instalments for the recovery of the cost of the Additional Police Post of Village Kacha Pakka, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar have been fixed by the Government ; if so, their number ;

[Shri Ram Kishan]

(b) the interval, if any, fixed by the Government between these instalments ;

(c) whether any representation from Sardar Chanchal Singh and other inhabitants of this village was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar in March, 1953 to fix an interval of one year between the instalments ; if so, the decision, if any, taken in the matter ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) Yes ; two.

(b) One year.

(c) Yes, a representation from S. Chanchal Singh and others was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, requesting for the recovery of one instalment of cost in Rabi, 1953 and the second in Rabi, 1954. The Tehsildar concerned has been asked to spread over the assessment accordingly.

CANAL OUTLETS IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

359. **Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state—

(a) the list of the Canal outlets which irrigate the lands of the villages Kamalpur, Wan, Miani, Nurpur, Sheikh, Theh Brahmana and Gulalipur, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar ;

(b) the area under the command of each of the outlets referred to above according to the old chakbandi (prior to the settlement of 1938-39);

(c) whether any area has been added to the chakbandi of each of the outlets referred to in part (a) above after the said settlement ; if so, to what extent in each case ;

(d) (i) the dates when the new chakbandis after the settlement of 1938-39 of each of the outlets referred to above were prepared ;

(ii) whether the chakbandis referred to in part (d)(i) above were sent to the Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle, Amritsar for approval; if so, when ;

(iii) whether there was any delay in approving the new chakbandis for more than 6 months ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(iv) the date when the new chakbandi of each outlet was approved by Superintending Engineer referred to above ;

(e) whether the Government proposes to increase the size of the outlets referred to above in proportion to the area newly-added to each of them; if so, when ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : (a) List of canal outlets which irrigate the lands of villages in question is attached.

(b) The area under Command of each outlet is shown in column 4 of the attached statement.

(c) No new area has been added.

(d) (i) The new chakbandi was prepared in 1949.

(ii) Yes, in December 1949.

(iii) No delay.

(iv) The new chakbandi of these outlets was approved along with all other channels of the Circle on 28th December 1949.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

UPPER BARI DOAB CIRCLE.

Serial No.	R.D. of Outlet	Name of village	C.C.A.
1	2	3	4
	Manochahal Minor of Tarn Taran Distributary		
1	5615-R ..	Manochahal Khurd	427
		Nurpur ..	311
		Total ..	738
2	11510-L ..	Miani ..	119
		Wan ..	335
		Shahbaspur ..	5
		Total ..	459
3	14040-R ..	Miani ..	119
		Sheikh ..	121
		Total ..	240
4	17100-R ..	Theh Brahmnan ..	211
5	20015-L ..	Kamlpur ..	223
		Wan ..	71
		Total ..	294
	Gopala Minor of Tarn Taran Distributary		
1	10600-R ..	Gullalipur ..	394
2	11500-TR ..	Do ..	3

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO CERTAIN PEOPLE.

360. Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the total balance area to which the persons referred to in Starred Assembly Question No. 977, printed in the list of Starred Questions, dated the 27th October, 1952, were entitled ;

(b) (i) whether any area was made available at Village Kalsian Kalan, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, as a result of correction in the Jamabandi records of Village Saraich, Tehsil and District Lahore ; if so, the total of this area ;

(ii) the distance between Kalsian Kalan and Village Dyalpura Tehsil Patti, to which the persons referred to in part (a) above belong ;

(c)(i) whether a representation in January, 1953, from the persons referred to in part (a) above was received by the Director, Rehabilitation, Rural, at Jullundur for the allotment of the balance area at Village Kalsian Kalan ; if so, the action taken in the matter by the Director, Rehabilitation, Rural, in the light of the Government reply to part (a) of Starred Assembly Question No. 611, put during the budget session of 1952 ;

(ii) whether the non-colonist displaced persons have been given preference over the persons referred to in part (a) above ; if so, the provision of law under which this has been done ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) 22 Standard Acres and 10½ units.

(b) (i) Yes ; 41 Standard Acres and 11 Units ;

(ii) Three miles.

(c) (i) Yes ; As the area became available towards the end of March, 1953, no action could be taken on the representation. Their cases will be considered along with others at the time of allotment of the area which has now become available.

(ii) As the area rendered available has not so far been allotted, the question does not arise.

APPLICATION OF SHRIMATI RAM KAUR OF VILLAGE MIRGINDPURA.

361. Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) with reference to the reply to Starred Assembly Question No. 501* put during the Budget Session of 1952, whether any application of Shrimati Ram Kaur, widow of Sardar Tarlok Singh, resident of Village Mirgindpura, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepur on 5th November 1951 for consolidation of her parcha claims with her collaterals at Village Ratta Khera, Tehsil Fazilka, District Ferozepur ; if so, the action, if any, taken in the matter ;

*The reply to *501 appears in the proceedings of the Assembly Debates Vol. III o. 14, dated 29th November 1952.

(b) whether any area has become available in this village as a result of the report of the re-checking staff of the Rehabilitation Department; if so, to what extent;

(c) whether the case of Shrimati Ram Kaur referred to in part (a) above will be considered by the Government at the time of allotment of this area ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) No such application is traceable in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore.

(b) Re-checking is still in hand. Unless the work is finished it is not possible to say whether any area will become available as a result of re-checking.

(c) In view of the answer to part (b) above, it does not arise at this stage.

ALLOTMENT OF EVACUEE LANDS IN VILLAGE VARIOWAL, TEHSIL TARN TARAN

362. Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether any evacuee area at Village Variowal, Tehsil Tarn Taran, District Amritsar was proposed to be allotted or was allotted to the persons referred to in part (b)(ii) of Unstarred Assembly Question No. 196 printed in the list of questions, dated 30th October 1952; if so, when, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) (i) whether the allotment Sanads about the area referred to in part (a) above, were prepared before the 28th February 1953; if not, the reasons therefor;

(ii) whether the allotment Sanads were handed over to the persons concerned before 28th February 1953 ; if so, when, if not the reasons for delay ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) Yes. Some evacuee area at Village Variowal Tehsil Tarn Taran, was proposed to be allotted to Shri Chet Singh, son of Man Singh.

(b) (i) The Patwari prepared the allotment Sanad on 29th January 1953 and it was sent to Tehsildar, Tarn Taran on 13th February 1953. Shri Baj Singh Wasil Baqi Nawis could not attend to it as there was rush of work with him due to the fact that the other Wasil Baqi Nawis Shri Amar Nath was on one month's leave. Shri Baj Singh has been warned to be careful in future.

(ii) the allotment Sanad could not be handed over to the persons concerned before 28th February 1953, as it reached Sadar Office late. It was handed over on 7th April 1953 after it was duly approved by the Revenue Assistant, Amritsar.

COMPLETION OF SORTING OF JAMABANDI RECORDS OF VILLAGE SARAICH.

363. Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state —

(a) whether the Chhant of Jamabandi records of Village Saraich, Tehsil and District Lahore has been completed ; if so, since when ;

(b) whether the parcha claims of the displaced persons of this village have been completely prepared and the land allotted to the persons referred to in part (f) (i) of Unstarred Question No. 113 in the Village of Garyala, District Amritsar, where they had already been allotted lands partly or in the Village of Farid Khera alias Rasulpur Khera, Tehsil Fazilka, District Ferozepore, wherein allotment was made to them under wrong names ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) (i) whether any area has been made available in Village Farid Khera referred to in part (b) above as a result of the report of the rechecking staff appointed by the Rehabilitation Department ; if so, its total ;
(ii) the procedure adopted for the allotment of this area ;

(d) whether the cases of the persons referred to in Unstarred Assembly Question No. 191 (b) printed in the list of Questions, dated 30th October 1952, have been considered and any of them has been allotted any area out of that referred to in part (c) (i) above ; if so, the area allotted to each of them, if not, the reasons therefor ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) Yes ; since 8th December 1952.

(b) Parcha Claims have since been prepared. Rechecking of Village Farid Khera is still in progress and unless the work is completed no action can be taken at this stage.

(c) (i), (ii), (d) — In view of the answer to part (b) above, it does not arise.

TOTAL EVACUEE AREA AT VILLAGE RATTOKE, TEHSIL PATTI, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

364. Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the total evacuee area at Village Rattoke, Police Station Valtoha, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar ;

(b) the area allotted quasi-permanently to each of the displaced persons settled there upto 28th February 1953 ;

(c) whether any area was available for allotment in this village on 28th February 1953 ;

(d) (i) whether any representation from any, of the female allottees (Shrimati Palo, wife of Hazara Singh) referred to in part (b) above was received by the Director, Rehabilitation, Rural, Jullundur (received in his office on 21st November 1952,—*vide* postal acknowledgment) for consolidation with her husband ;

(ii) whether a representation was received by the Director, Rehabilitation, Rural on 27th February 1953 at Patti Camp from Sardar Hazara Singh, husband of Shrimati Palo referred to in part (d)(i)above asking for consolidation of his claim with his wife;

(e) if the answers to parts (d)(i) and (ii) above be in the affirmative, the action Government has taken in the matter ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) 103 Standard Acres and 12½ units.

(b) The details are given hereunder —

		S.A.	U.
(1) Shrimati Palkaur, daughter of Saudagar Singh	..	4	½
(2) Shri Nand Singh, son of Jhanda Singh	..	8	1
(3) Shri Surain Singh, son of Ishar Singh	..	6	4½
(4) Shri Narain singh, son of Ishar Singh	..	6	3½
(5) Shri Tehl Singh, son of Sundersingh	..	6	8½
Total	..	31	1¾

(c) Yes ; 8 Standard Acres and 15 units ;

(d) (i). Yes ; but it was filed being barred by time because such applications had been invited upto the 11th of November 1950.

(ii) Yes ; on 27th January 1953 and not on 27th February 1953.

(e) The matter is still under consideration.

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS TO DISPLACED PERSONS IN CERTAIN VILLAGES OF TEHSIL PATTI

366. **Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state —

(a) (i) whether any displaced persons of Village Qadiwind, Tehsil Kasur, District Lahore, were allotted lands partly at Villages Kalsian Kala, Kals and Mastgarh, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, during the quasi-permanent allotment ; if so, their list ;

(ii) the area allotted to each of them in each village ;

[Shri Ram Kishan]

(iii) the reasons, if any, for alloting them the above area in different villages ;

(iv) the distance between village Kalsian Kalan and each of the other villages ;

(b) whether any area has become available at village Kalsian Kalan referred to above for allotment as a result of the correction in the records of village Saraich, tehsil Patti recently ; if so, the total of this area ;

(c) (i) whether the areas of the persons referred to in part (a) (i) above have been consolidated or are proposed to be consolidated at village Kalsian Kalan ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

(ii) Whether this area has been allotted to persons other than those referred to in part (c) (i) above, If so, the reasons, therefor ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) (i) and (ii). Yes. A list is given below :—

Name of the Allottee	Village of Allotment	Area Allotted St.	Acres.	Units.
Shri Chanan Singh	Kalsian Kalan	33	..	15
Ditto ..	Kalas	7	..	8½
Shrimati Inder Kaur ..	Do	33	..	15
Ditto ..	Mastgarh	7	..	8½

(iii) They being bigger allottees could not be accommodated in one village for non-availability of area.

(iv) The distance is given below :—

Kalsian Kalan and Mastgarh	.. Ten miles
Kalas and Mastgarh	.. half a mile,

(b) Yes ; 11 Standard Acres and 4¾ Units.

(c) (i) No. Their cases can be considered along with others on merits on application being made for exchange.

(ii) No.

———

LAND OWNERS OF VILLAGE VARPAL, DISTRICT FEROZEPORE.

367. Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state :—

(a)(i) the names of the land-owners of village Varpal, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepore whose area has been acquired or is proposed to be acquired for the construction of canals proposed to be taken from Harike Head Works ;

(ii) the area to be acquired from each land owner with details of Khasra numbers in each case ;

(b) (i) the areas which each of the zamindars referred to in part (a) above has been cultivating since 28th December, 1951 ;

(ii) the kind of crops sown under each khasra number ;

(c) whether the required notifications for the acquisition of this area were published in the Gazette and the notices served on the land owners concerned before 31st January 1953 ; if so, when ; if not, the reasons for the delay ;

(d) whether the collectors of Ferozepore District have assessed any compensation for compulsory acquisition upto now ; if not, the reasons for the delay ;

(e) (i) whether any award of this area has been fixed by the Collector upto now ; if not, the reasons for the delay ;

(ii) the steps Government proposes to take for the early assessment of compensation award and early payment of the amount due to the above land owners?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : (a) (i) and (ii) Areas of which formal possession was taken on 28th December 1951 according to the old alignment but which were not actually utilized on account of change in alignment are detailed in Statement A below. Details of area which will now come under the canal according to new alignment are given in statement B Below.

STATEMENT A

Serial No.	Name of land-owner	Details of Field No.	Area in acres
1	Shri Gola Singh	133 to 135 and 137	1·06
2	„ Kartar Singh ..	133 to 136	·43
3	„ Santa Singh ..	133, 134 and 157	2·69
4	„ Ajit Singh ..	132, 148, 151 to 153 and 156	8·18
5	Shrimati Bholi ..	100	·10
6	Shri Tek Singh ..	131	·57
7	„ Hira Singh ..	133 and 158	1·28
8	„ Hari Singh ..	129 and 159	1·36
9	„ Harnam Singh ..	128 and 168	·36
10	„ Thakur Singh ..	147	2·17
11	Sarv Shri Atma Ram .. Lachhman Dass etc. ..	36,37,40 to 52, 88, 96 to 101, 120 and 121	24·17
		Total	42·37

[Minister for Irrigation]

STATEMENT B

Area acquired according to new alignment

Serial No.	Name of land owner	Details of Field No.	Area in acres
1	Sarv Shri Atma Ram Lachhman Dass etc.,	24,29, 32 to 39,45, 47, 48, 81 to 83, 85 to 98, 39, 35 100 to 102 107, 108, 111 to 120, 122 to 127	39·35
2	Shri Harnam Singh ..	127	·14
		Total	39·49

(b) (i) and (ii). Details of area referred to above which each zamindar has been cultivating since 28th December 1951 together with the kind of crop sown thereon are given below :—

Serial No.	Name of Zamindar	Area cultivated	Field No.	Kind of crop
1	Shri Gola Singh ..	·81	137,135 133	Cotton Wheat and Millet
2	„ Kartar Singh ..	·43	133 136	Millet Toria and Millet
3	„ Ajit Singh ..	4·83	148,151 to 153	Toria
4	„ Tek Singh ..	·57	131	Millet
5	„ Hari Singh ..	1·36	159 129	Wheat Sugarcane
6	„ Harnam Singh ..	·29	168	Wheat
7	„ Thakur Singh ..	2·15	147	Cotton Millet and Toria
8	„ Sarv Shri Atma Ram Lachhman Dass etc. ..	4·40	120 96 and 99, 97, 88	Toria and Wheat toria

(c) *The required information is given below* :—

Serial No.	Area in acres	Name of Work	Whether notification under section 4 published in Gazette	Whether declaration under section published in Gazette	Whether necessary notice to zamindars concerned issued
1	42·37	Ferozepore Feeder (old alignment)	Yes on 9.5.51.	Yes on 9.11.51.	Notification under section 4 desiring collector to take action under section 17 of Land Acquisition Act was issued on 9-5-51. Notices to Zamindars in such cases are not necessary.
2	9·16	Brick Kiln	Not yet necessary; action is being taken	Not yet necessary action is being taken.	Possossion has been taken with the consent of Zamindars
3	30·41	Ferozepore Feeder (new alignment)	Yes	Not yet necessary; documents are being prepared.	The question of issuing notices to them does not arise.

(d) No. The delay in payment of compensation for compulsory acquisition has occurred since several representations were received against the original alignment which had to be changed subsequently. The area according to new alignment has only recently been taken possession of and necessary compensation will be assessed and paid as soon as notifications are issued.

(e) The Land Acquisition Staff in Ferozepore Circle remained very busy on other important works and had to make lot of payments on other accounts. Necessary steps are being taken to increase the strength of the land acquisition staff in order to expedite the cases of assessment and making payment for the areas in question.

ALLOTMENT OF AREA AVAILABLE IN TOWN PATTI TO DISPLACED PERSONS.

368. Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the whole of the culturable area of village Khara, Tehsil Kasur, District Lahore has been declared sub-urban for allotment purposes ;

(b) whether any notice was issued by the Tehsildar Patti, District Amritsar, inviting applications from the displaced persons for the allotment of the available area at town Patti during the months of August, or September, 1952 ; if so, a copy of this notice be laid on the Table ;

[Shri Ram Kishan]

(c) whether any last date was fixed for the receipt of the applications by him ; if so, what, if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether the authorised Deputy Custodian, Amritsar, received a representation from S. Wassan Singh and other displaced persons of Village Khara referred to in part (a) for the allotment of the available area at Patti ; if so, the action taken thereon ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) the culturable area of only those claimants from Village Khara, Tehsil Kasur, District Lahore was declared suburban who stated in their original claims or affidavits that their lands were situated within one or two miles from the municipal limits of Kasur Town.

(b) Yes. Notice was issued by the Tehsildar Patti, District Amritsar for inviting applications from the displaced persons for the allotment of the available area at town Patti. A copy of the notice* is laid on the Table.

(c) No last date for receiving the applications was fixed, the reasons being that the temporary allottees resided in many far off villages and it was difficult to inform them about the last date. Publicity was made without fixing any date so that every allottee might file his application for allotment and no one be deprived of his chance.

(d) A representation from Shri Wasan Singh of Village Khara, was received in the office of the Registrar, Land Claims on 4th April 1953 and was turned down under the orders of the Registrar, Land Claims, dated 22nd April 1953 on the ground that he had not applied in time for sub-urban allotment and was not declared a sub-urban claimant. It has however, been found that he had left sub-urban land in West Pakistan. He will now receive sub-urban allotment in Ferozepur District.

EXCLUSION OF SOME AREA FROM ALLOTMENT TO DISPLACED PERSONS IN VILLAGE MANAWAN TEHSIL PATTI.

369. Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) whether any area was excluded from the allotment of certain displaced persons, namely, Prem Singh, Hakim Singh and others of Village Mananwan, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, during the year 1952 ; if so, their list ;

(ii) the area excluded from the allotment of each ;

(iii) the reasons for exclusion in each case ;

(b) whether any of the persons referred to in part (a) (i) above applied to the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, between 1st September 1952 and 31st December 1952 to make up the deficiency from the evacuee available area in Villages Kalanjar Avtar and Kalsian Kalan, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar; if so, the action taken by the authorities concerned in the matter ?

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*Kept in the Liberary

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) (i) and (ii). Yes the details are given hereunder :—

		SA.	Units.
(A) Prem Singh, son of Surmukh Singh	..	2	$4\frac{3}{4}$
(B) Hakam Singh, son of Surmukh Singh	..	0	14
(C) Sulakhan Singh, son of Khem Singh	..	0	3

(iii) Because the land had actually been mortgaged by the Muslim evacuees with Kundan Singh, son of Karam Singh, a local land-lord, and as such it was not allotable ;

(b) Yes. As no area was available in Village Kalsian the deficiency could not be made up. Same area has, however, now become available in this village and their cases will be considered at the time of allotment.

ADDITIONAL POLICE POST AT VILLAGE SUR SINGH, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

370. Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state —

(a) the names of the Officer-in-charge and Constables who remained posted to the Additional Police Post Sur Singh, Police Station Bhikhiwind, District Amritsar from 11th May 1950 to 10th May 1951 ;

(b) (i) the list of the criminal cases which were committed outside the limits of this village but which were investigated by the officer-in-charge and the constables of this post;

(ii) the nature of each case ;

(iii) the place and date of occurrence of each case ;

(iv) the names of the police stations where the cases referred to above were registered ;

(c) (i) the time spent in the investigation and prosecution of each case by the officer incharge of this post and each of the constables posted with him ;

(ii) the time spent by the officer-in-charge or each of the constables in patrolling the other villages during their stay at the said post ;

(d) whether any of the police constables referred to in part (a) above remained on duty unconnected with this village with C.I.D. Police, Special Staff Police, Police Station Chabhal or at the District Headquarters during his posting at this Police Post ; if so, their list and the period spent by each of them on such duties ;

[Shri Ram Kishan]

(e) whether the Government proposes to exclude from the cost to be recovered from the inhabitants of this village, the cost of the period referred to in parts (c) (i), (c) (ii) and (d) above as has been done in the case of the officer-in-charge, Police Post of Village Sur Singh referred to in Starred Assembly Question No. 975 put by Dr. Prakash Kaur, M.L.A. and printed in the list of postponed questions, dated 24th November 1952 ; if so, the amount to be remitted in this respect.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: (a) A list marked 'A' showing names of the officer-in-charge and constables who remained posted to the Additional Police Post, Sur Singh, from 11th May 1950 to 31st October 1950 is given below. The Post was withdrawn from 1st November 1950.

(b) (i)
(ii)
(iii)
(iv)
(c) (i)
} A statement marked 'B' is enclosed.

(c) (ii) The time spent in patrolling cannot be ascertained as the daily diaries concerned have since been destroyed.

(d) No.

(e) Yes. It is proposed to exclude from the amount to be recovered from the inhabitants, the cost of the period referred to in part (c) (i) above. The cost to be excluded in this respect works out at Rs. 227/9/-, including Rs. 167/12/- in respect of the A.S.I. incharge of the Post, which has already been excluded.

LIST 'A'

1 A. S. I. Maya Ram
2 H. C. Brij Lal, No. 543.
3 F. C. Mohinder Singh, No. 1398.
4 F. C. Manohar Lal, No. 259.
5 F. C. Mehtab Singh No. 35.
6 F. C. Mohan Singh, No. 1355.
7 F. C. Jagdish Singh, No. 516.
8 F. C. Roshan Lal, No. 1494.
9 F. C. Gurbux Singh, No. 722.
10 F. C. Amar Singh, No. 1.
11 F. C. Rattan Singh, No. 1906.
12 F. C. Bihari Lal, No. 1452.

STATEMENT B

STATEMENT 'B'

Additional Police Post quartered at Village Sur Singh, Police Station Bhikhiwind

(b)(i)	(b)(ii)	(b)(iii)	(b)(iv)	(c)(i)		
Criminal cases which were committed outside the limits of Village Sur Singh but were investigated by the Officer-in-charge and the constables of the police post	Nature of each case	The place and the date of occurrence of each case	The name of police station where these cases were registered	Name of the investigating officer	*The time spent in investigation and prosecution of each case* — Investigation	Prosecution
F.I.R. No. 3, dated 3rd January 1950	U/s 430 I.P.C.	Pohle, 28th December 1949	Bhikhiwind	A.S.I. Maya Ram H.C. Brij Lal 543 F.C. Mohinder Singh 1398 F.C. Mehtab Singh 35	15 hours 4 hours Ditto Ditto	
F.I.R. No. 6, dated 8th January 1950	U/s 381 I.P.C.	Bainka, 8th January 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram F.C. Mohinder Singh 1398	1 day and 6 hours 18½ hours	Please see note at the end of the Statement.
F.I.R. No. 11, dated 26th January 1950	U/s 457 I.P.C.	Bainka, 26th January 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram	20 hours	
F.I.R. No. 41, dated 8th March 1950	U/s 411 I.P.C.	Pohle, 3rd March 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram F.C. Mehtab Singh 35 F.C. Mohinder Singh 1398	20 Ditto 13 Ditto Ditto	

F.I.R. No. 42, dated 15th March 1950	U/s 9/1/78 Opium Act	Bainka, 15th March 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram H.C. Brij Lal 543 F.C. Mohinder Singh 1398	$5\frac{3}{4}$ hours $2\frac{3}{4}$ hours Ditto	
F.I.R. No. 43, dated 16th March 1950	U/s 454 I.P.C.	Singhpura, 16th Marc 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram F.C. Mohinder Singh 1398 F.C. Jagdish Singh 516	20 hours 5 hours Ditto	
F.I.R. No. 77, dated 13th May 1950	U/s 327/377/511 I.P.C.	Bainka, 13th May 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram H.C. Brij Lal 543	14 hours 3 hours	
F.I.R. No. 85, dated 20th May 1950	U/s 452/324 I.P.C.	Pohle, 20th May 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram H.C. Brij Lal 543 F.C. Manohar Lal 259 F.C. Jagdish Singh 516	1 day and 6 hours 11 hours 9 hours Ditto	
F.I.R. No. 91, dated 30th May 1950	U/s 302 I.P.C.	Bainka, 30th May 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram H.C. Brij Lal 543 F.C. Manohar Lal 259 F.C. Mehtab Singh 35	1 day and 21 hours 1 day and $9\frac{1}{2}$ hours 26 hours $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours	
F.I.R. No. 106, dated 22nd June 1950	U/s 302 I.P.C.	Singhpura, 22nd June 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram H.C. Brij Lal No. 543 F.C. Mehtab Singh 35 F.C. Amar Singh F.C. Mohinder Singh 1398 F.C. Mohan Singh 1355	4 days and 4 hours 2 days and 3 hours 7 hours 19 hours 7 hours 1 day and 21 hours	
F.I.R. No. 115, dated 8th July 1950	U/s 392/452 I.P.C.	Sugga, 8th July 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram H.C. Brij Lal 543 F.C. Mehtab Singh 35 F.C. Mohan Singh 1355	1 day and 2 hours $14\frac{1}{2}$ hours 14 hours $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours	

STATEMENT 'B'—CONCLD

Additional Police Post quartered at Village Sur Singh, Police Station Bhikhiwind concld

(b)(i)	(b) (ii)	(b) (iii)	(b)(iv)	(c)(i)		
Criminal cases which were committed outside the limits of Village Sur Singh but were investigated by the Officer-in-charge and the constables of the police post	Nature of each case	The place and date of occurrence of each case	The name of police station where these cases were registered	Name of the investigating officer	*The time spent in investigation and prosecution of each case*	
					Investigation	Prosecution
F.I.R. No. 117, dated 11th July 1950	U/s 457 I.P.C.	Singhpura, 11th July 1950	Bhikhiwind	A.S.I. Maya Ram H.C. Brij Lal 543	3 days and 20½ hours 1 day and 18 hours	
F.I.R. No. 120, dated 14th July 1950	U/s 24 P.P. Act	Pohle, 14th July 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram F.C. Jagdish Singh 516	11 hours 2½ hours	
F.I.R. No. 122, dated 17th July 1950	U/s 457 I.P.C.	Bainka, 17th July 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram F.C. Mehtab Singh 35	1 day and 1 hour 4 hours	
F.I.R. No. 153, dated 9th September 1950	U/s 447 I.P.C.	Sugga, 9th September 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram	21½ hours	
F.I.R. No. 156, dated 11th September 1950	U/s 379 I.P.C.	Bhikhiwind, 11th September 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram	16½ hours	
F.I.R. No. 162, dated 28th September 1950	U/S 457 I.P.C.	Pohle, 28th September 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram F.C. Mohan Singh 1355 F.C. Jagdish Singh 516	1 day and 6 hours 16 hours 7 hours	

F.I.R. No. 165, dated 6th October 1950	U/s 452/307 I.P.C.	Bainka, 6th October 1950	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram F.C. Jagdish Singh 516	1 day and 6 hours 4 hours
F.I.R. No. 205, dated 23rd October 1949	U/s 429 I.P.C.	Bainka, 23rd October 1949	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram H.C. Brij Lal 543	½ hour 6 hours
F.I.R. No. 214, dated 1st November 1949	U/s 302 I.P.C.	Bainka, Ist November 1949	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram F.C. Manohar Lal 259 F.C. Mohan Singh 1355	2 days and 9 hours 1 day and 11½ hours Ditto
F.I.R. No. 219, dated 7th November 1949	U/s 380/451 I.P.C.	Balair, 7th November 1949	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram	3 days and 2 hours
F.I.R. No. 234, dated 29th November 1949	U/s 61-1-14 Excise Act	Farandipur, 29th November 1949	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram	9½ hours
F.I.R. No. 235, dated 29th November 1949	Ditto	Ditto	Do	Ditto	6 hours
F.I.R. No. 236, dated 2nd December 1949	U/s 19-11-78 Arms Act	Manhila Jai Singh, 2nd December 1949	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram H.C. Brij Lal 543	10 hours 6½ hours
F.I.R. No. 237, dated 2nd December 1949	U/s 20-11-78 Arms Act	Ditto	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram H.C. Brij Lal 543	11½ hours 7½ hours
F.I.R. No 238, dated 2nd December 1949	Ditto	Ditto	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram	2½ hours
F.I.R. No. 244, dated 28th December 1949	U/s 366/452/170 I.P.C.	Ghurkwind, 28th December 1949	Do	Ditto	1 day 16½ hours
F.I.R. No. 249, dated 28th December 1949	U/s 20-11-78 Arms Act	Pohle, 28th December 1949	Do	A.S.I. Maya Ram H.C. Brij Lal 543 F.C. Manohar Lal 259 F.C. Mohinder Singh 1398 F.C. Mehtab Singh 35	2 days and 4 hours 1 day & 19 hours 22 hours 1 day 1 day

Note. Court attendance for the entire period from 1st November 1949 to 31st October 1950 cannot be ascertained as the daily diaries for this period have been destroyed.

ADDITIONAL POLICE POST AT VILLAGE MAKHI KALAN, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

371. Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the officer incharge and Constables who remained posted to the Additional Police Post, Makhi Kalan, Police Station, Bhikhiwind, District Amritsar, from 11th May 1950 to 10th May 1951 ;

(b) (i) the list of the criminal cases which were committed outside the limits of this village but were investigated by the officer-in-charge and constables of this post ;

(ii) the nature of each case ;

(iii) the place and date of occurrence of each case ;

(iv) the names of the police stations where the cases referred to above were registered ;

(c) (i) the time spent in the investigation and prosecution of each case by the officer incharge of this post and each of the constables posted with him ;

(ii) the time spent by the officer-in-charge or each of the constables in patrolling the other villages during their stay at the said post ;

(d) whether any of the police constables referred to in part (a) remained on duty unconnected with this village with the C.I.A. police special staff police, police station, Bhikhiwind or at the District Headquarters during his posting at this police post ; if so, their list and the period spent by each of them on such duties ;

(e) whether the Government proposes to exclude from the cost to be recovered from the inhabitants of this village, the cost of the period referred to in parts (c) (i), (c) (ii) and (d) above as has been done in the case of the police post of village Sur Singh referred to in starred Assembly Question No. 975 put by Dr. Prakash Kaur, M.L.A., and printed in the list of postponed questions dated 24th November 1952 ; if so, the amount to be remitted in this respect ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) A list marked 'A' showing names of the officer-in-charge and constables who remained posted to Additional Police Post Makhi Kalan from 11th May 1950 to 30th November 1950 is placed below. The Post was withdrawn from 1st December 1950.

(b) (i)
(ii)
(iii) A statement marked 'B' is given below.
(iv)
(c) (i)

(c) (ii) A statement marked 'D' is enclosed.

(d) No.

(e) Yes, it is proposed to exclude from the amount to be recovered from the inhabitants, the cost of the periods referred to in parts (c) (i) and (c) (ii) above. The cost to be excluded in this respect works out at Rs. 263-8-0.

LIST 'A'

(1) A. S. I. Hota Ram.

(2) Offg. A. S. I. Jagdev Singh.

(3) F. C. Udham Singh, No. 1346.

(4) F. C. Virsa Singh, No. 1148.

(5) F. C. Narinjan Singh, No. 756.

(6) F. C. Harbans Lal, No. 1378.

(7) F. C. Partul Chand, No. 632.

(8) F. C. Sarain Singh, No. 466.

(9) F. C. Chint Ram, No. 174

STATEMENT 'B'

Additional Police Post quartered at village Makhi Kalan, Police Station Bhikhiwind

(b)(i)	(b)(ii)	(b)(iii)	(b) (iv)	(c)(i)		
Criminal cases which were committed outside the limits of village Makhi Kalan but were investigated by the Officer-in-charge and the constables of the Police Post	Nature of each case	The place and date of occurrence of each case	The nams of police stations where these cases were registered	Name of the investigating officer	*The time spent in investigation and prosecution of each case*	
					Investigation	Prosecution
F.I.R. No. 239, dated 3rd December 1949	U/s 430, IPC	Bhai Ladhu, night between 30th November 1949/1st December 1950	Bhikhiwind	ASI Chuni Lal, F.C. Harbans Lal, 1378, F.C. Jagjit Singh, 1009	21 hours each	..
F.I.R. No. 241, dated 7th December 1949	U/s 379/225, IPC	Bhai Ladhu, 6th December 1949	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	11½ hours	..
F.I.R. No. 244, dated 21st December 1949	U/s 366/452/170/368, IPC	Ghurak Wind, 2½ months ago from the date of report, i.e., 21st December 1949	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	9 days and 8 hours	..
F.I.R. No. 245, dated 22nd December 1949	U/s 457, IPC	Kalsian Kalan, night between 20th/21st December 1949	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	3 days and 18½ hours	..
F.I.R. No. 5, dated 4th January 1950	U/s 457/380, IPC	Bhagwanpur, ten days before the date of report	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	One day and 13 hours	..
F.I.R. No. 9, dated 12th January 1950	U/s 430, IPC	Manhiala Jai Singh, 5th January 1950	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	7 hours	..
F.I.R. No. 20, dated 1st February 1950	U/s, 382/457 IPC	Manhiala Jai Singh, night between 31st January 1950/1st February 1950	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	One day and 8½ hours	..

F.I.R. No. 21, dated 4th February 1950	U/s 379/452/225, IPC	Makhi Khurd, night between 3rd/4th February 1950	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	11 hours	..
F.I.R. No. 25, dated 12th February 1950	U/s 457, IPC	Kalsian Kalan, night between 10th/11th February 1950	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	One day and 14 hours	..
F.I.R. No. 26, dated 12th February 1950	U/s 452/363, IPC & 91/11/78, Arms Act	Makhi Khurd, 12th February 1950	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	7½ hours	..
F.I.R. No. 30, dated 16th February 1950	U/s 22-6-24, C. T. Act	Makhi Khurd, during communal disturbances of 1947	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	9 hours	..
F.I.R. No. 33, dated 21 February 1950	U/s 457, IPC	Kacha Pucca, night between 13th/14th February 1950	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	12 hours	..
F.I.R. No. 37, dated 24th February 1950	U/s 456, IPC	Kale, night between 23rd/24th February 1950	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	10 hours	..
F.I.R. No. 46, dated 20th March 1950	U/s 19/11/78, Arms Act	Kacha Pucca, 20th March 1950	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	4 hours	..
F.I.R. No. 52, dated 7th April 1950	U/s 353, IPC	Kalsian Kalan, 6th April 1950	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	One day and 11½ hours	..
F.I.R. No. 56, dated 9th April 1950	U/s 457, IPC	Bhai Ladhu, night between 8th/9th April 1950	Do	ASI Chuni Lal ..	7 hours	..
F.I.R. No. 73, dated 9th May 1950	U/s 457, IPC	Kalsian Kalan, 8th/9th May 1950	Do	ASI Hota Ram ..	One day and 17 hours	..
F.I.R. No. 83, dated 19th May 1950	U/s 457, IPC	Kalsian Kalan, 18th/19th May 1950	Do	ASI Jagdev Singh ..	4 hours	..
F.I.R. No. 88, dated 28th May 1950	U/s 430, IPC	Bhai Ladhu, Night between 22nd/23rd May 1950	Bhikhiwind	ASI Hota Ram FC Harbans Lal 1378 ..	One day and 12 hours each	..
F.I.R. No. 129, dated 25th July 1950	U/s 61/1/14, Excise Act	Kalsian Kalan, 25th July 1950	Do	ASI Jagdev Singh ..	5 hours	6½ hours
F.I.R. No. 132, dated 4th August 1950	U/s 324, IPC	Makhi Khurd, 3rd August 1950	Do	ASI Jagdev Singh ..	22½ hours	12 hours
F.I.R. No. 135, dated 8th August 1950	U/s 457, IPC	Makhi Khurd, night between 6th/7th August 1950	Do	Ditto ..	I day and 1 hour	..

STATEMENT 'B' *contd.*

Additional Police Post quartered at village Makhi Kalan, Police Station Bhikhiwind

(b)(i)	(b)(ii)	(b)(iii)	(b) (iv)	(c) (i)		
Criminal cases which were committed outside the limits of village Makhi Kalan but were investigated by the Officer-in-charge and the constables of the Police Post	Nature of each case	The place and date of occurrence of each case	The names of police stations where these cases were registered	Name of the investigating officer	*The time spent in investigation and prosecution of each case*	
					Investigation	Prosecution
F.I.R. No. 140, dated 20th August 1950	U/s 457, IPC	Kalsian Kalan, night between 19th/20th August 1950	Bhikhiwind	ASI Jagdev Singh ..	18 hours	..
F.I.R. No. 146, dated 23rd August 1950	U/s 457, IPC	Makhi Khurd, night between 22nd/23rd August 1950	Do	ASI Jagdev Singh, FC Chint Ram, No. 1749 FC Partul Chand, 632	12½ hours each	..
F.I.R. No. 168, dated 9th October 1950	U/s 379, IPC	Makhi Khurd, night between 8th/9th October 1950	Do	ASI Jagdev Singh ..	8½ hours ..	1 day and 6½ hours
F.I.R. No. 173, dated 16th October 1950	U/s 457, IPC	Makhi Khurd, night between 15th/16th October 1950	Do	ASI Jagdev Singh, FC Chint Ram, 1749 FC Virsa Singh, 1148 FC Narinjan Singh, 756	19½ hours each	..
F.I.R. No. 178, dated 26th October 1950	U/s 61-1-14, Excise Act	Kalsian Kalan, 26th October 1950	Do	ASI Jagdev Singh ..	7½ hours	..

Note. Court attendance for the period from 1st December 1949 to 1st July 1950 cannot be ascertained as the daily diaries for that period have been destroyed.

STATEMENT 'D'

Serial No.	Name of Officer or Constable	Time spent in patrolling other villages	
		Ds.	Hrs.
1	A. S. I. Jagdev Singh ..	2	13
2	F. C. Partul Chand No. 632 ..	5	3⅛
3	F. C. Sarain Singh No. 466 ..	3	18½
4	F. C. Harbans Lal No. 1378 ..	5	18¾
5	F. C. Udham Singh No. 1346 ..	2	1
6	F. C. Virsa Singh No. 1148 ..	9	8⅛
7	F. C. Chint Ram No. 1744 ..	10	5¾
8	F. C. Narinjan Singh No. 756 ..	10	1

Note. Time spent in patrolling during the period from 1st December 1949 to 1st July 1950 cannot be ascertained as the daily diaries for that period have since been destroyed.

PAY AND TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY THE CHIEF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY.

372. **Shri Mansa Ram Kuthiala :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the total amount of pay and Travelling Allowance drawn by the Chief Parliamentary Secretary, during the year 1952-53.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The amounts of pay and travelling allowance drawn by the Chief Parliamentary Secretary during the year 1952-53, are as under—

Pay	Rs	1,316	2	0
Travelling Allowance	Rs	849	6	0

HOSHIARPUR CO-OPERATIVE URBAN MERCANTILE BANK LIMITED.

373. **Shri Mansa Ram Kuthiala :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether any meeting was held between the officials of the Co-operative Department and members of the Hoshiarpur Co-operative Urban Mercantile Bank, Ltd., in October, 1952 regarding the affairs of the said bank ; if so, the decisions, if any, taken at the said meeting ;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to implement the decisions taken in the said meeting ;

(c) whether any case has been registered against the persons who were alleged to have misappropriated the money of the said bank ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : As further investigation into the matter has been ordered, it is not in public interest to give details at this stage.

POSTING OF TAIL GAUGE READERS IN JANDIALA DIVISION OF UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL CIRCLE.

374. Shri Ram Kishan: Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state—

(a) the names of tail gauge readers in the Jandiala Division of the Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle who remained posted from 1st September 1950 to 31st March 1951 in the Division;

(b) the sanctioned pay of each of them per mensem during this period;

(c) (i) the total amount of pay to which each of them was entitled for the period referred to in part (a) above;

(ii) the total amount actually paid to each of them for this period;

(d) (i) whether any of them was paid less than that to which he was entitled under the rules; if so, the list of such persons ;

(ii) the amount which was paid less than that due;

(iii) the reasons, if any, for this short payment;

(iv) the steps Government proposes to take for the early payment of the arrears referred to in part (d) (ii) above;

(e) whether any representations from persons referred to in part (d) (i) above was received by the higher canal authorities between 1st April 1951 and 28th February 1953, for the payment of their arrears; if so, the number of such representations sent by each of them during this period?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: (a) A list showing the names of tail gauge readers employed in Jandiala Division from 1st September 1950 to 31st March 1951 is enclosed.

(b) Sanctioned pay of each is shown in columns (3) and (4) of the statement appended.

(c) (i) Total amount of pay to which each of them was entitled is shown in columns 5 and 6 of the statement.

(ii) Total amount of pay actually paid is shown in columns 7 to 13 of the statement enclosed.

(d) (i) Yes, all of them were paid at the old rates for March 1951.

(ii) The amount which was paid less than that due is shown in column 14 of the statement annexed.

(iii) As orders for revision of the pay scale of the gauge readers with effect from 1st March 1951 were issued on 21st June 1951, so they were paid for March 1951 at the old rates.

(iv) The arrears due will be paid as soon as the fixation of their pay is verified by the Accountant-General, Punjab with whom the matter is still under correspondence.

(e) No representation from any of the gauge readers is reported to have been received on the subject.

Statement showing names of Tail Gauge Readers who remained employed in Jandiala Division, from 1st September 1950 to 31st March and amount paid to each of them during the period.

Serial Number	Name	*Scales of Pay*		*Total pay to which each was entitled*		*Details of payment made during*							Difference between Columns 6 and 13 i.e. for 3/1951 only
		From 9/50 to 2/51	For 3/51	From 9/50 to 2/1951	From 1-3-1951 to 31-3-1951	9/50 Pay	10/50 Pay	11/50	12/50	1/1951	2/1951	3/1951	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Shri Jaswant Singh ..	16 0 0	25-1-30	16 0 0	..	16 0 0	16 0 0	3 12 0	..	..	..	..	..
	Shri Balwant Singh ..	16 0 0	25-1-30	16 0 0	..	..	..	4 13 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	10 11 0	..	..
	Shri Wasan Singh	16 0 0	25-1-30	16 0 0	26 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	16 0 0	16 0 0	10 0 0
2	Shri Sucha Singh	19 0 0	25-1-30	19 0 0	29 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0	10 0 0
3	Shri Dewan Chand	19 0 0	25-1-30	19 0 0	30 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0	11 0 0
4	Shri Amar Nath..	17 8 0	25-1-30	17 8 0	27 0 9	17 8 0	17 8 0	17 8 0	17 8 0	17 8 0	17 8 0	17 8 0	9 8 0
5	Shri Ram Kishen	16 0 0	25-1-30	16 0 0	..	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	..	..	..	..
	Shri Rattan Kumar ..	16 0 0	25-1-30	16 0 0	25 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	16 0 0	9 0 0
6	Shri Dewan Chand Jaura ..	17 8 0	25-1-30	17 8 0	29 0 0	17 8 0	17 8 0	17 8 0	17 8 0	17 8 0	17 8 0	17 8 0	11 8 0
7	Shri Charan Dass	16 0 0	25-1-30	16 0 0	27 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	11 0 0
8	Shri Geja Singh..	16 0 0	25-1-30	16 0 0	26 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	10 0 0
9	Shri Durga Dass..	16 0 0	25-1-30	16 0 0	23 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	12 0 0

N.B. The above pay is exclusive of dearness allowance.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND AT VILLAGE HARDOSANGHE, DISTRICT JULLUNDUR.

375. Shri Ram Kishan: Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the grade of village chak No. 467 G.B. Tehsil Samundri, District Lyallpur;

(b) the grade of village Hardosanghe, Tehsil Phillaur, district Jullundur;

(c) (i) whether any displaced persons of the village referred to in part (a) above have been allotted lands in the village referred to in part (b) above; if so, their list;

(ii) the gradewise area allotted to each of them in this village;

(d) (i) whether any part of the area referred to in part (c) (ii) above remained under cultivation each year between 16th June 1948 and 15th March 1953, if so its total;

(ii) the total revenue recovered by the Gorernment each year from this area;

(e) whether any of the allottees referred to in part (c) (ii) above have taken possession of the area allotted to them; if not the reasons therefor?

Sardar Ujjal Singh: (a) A.

(b) C.

(c) (i) Yes. Two persons namely (i) Bhag Singh, son of Mangal Singh and (ii) Dara Singh, son of Harnam Singh of 467 G.B. District Lyallpur have been allotted land in this village.

	Chahi	Barani II	Barani III	Banjar Qm.
	S.A.U.	S.A.U.	S.A.U.	S.A.U
(ii) Dara Singh ..	6—9¾	1—11¼	0—9	0—8
Bhag Singh ..	6—9¾	1—15¼	0—5	0—8

(d) (i) No part of the area referred to in part c (ii) of the Assembly question was under cultivation between 16th June 1948 and 15th March 1953.

(ii) No land revenue could be recovered from the land in question for the period mentioned in d(i) above as the allottees did not take possession of this land.

(e) No. The reasons are not known.

SEARCH FEES

376. Shri Ram Kishan: Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the search fees in connection with the copies of the documents and Inspection of Court files (decided cases) have been revised recently by the Government; if so, the rates therefor;

(b) the present rate of search fees of both kinds of documents referred to in part (a) above?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon: (a) The search fee in connection with the copies of the documents and Inspection of court files (decided cases) excluding civil cases has been revised and the rates have been doubled.

(b) Rupee one.

VACANT PERMANENT POSTS IN DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, KANRAL.

377. Shri Ram Sarup: Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of permanent posts lying vacant in the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Karnal together with the date since when they have been lying vacant;

(b) the total number of approved candidates serving in the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Karnal for the last 8 years or more together with the date of approval of each such candidate;

(c) the reasons, if any, why the vacancies referred to in part (a) above have remained unfilled together with the reasons, if any, why the approved candidates mentioned in part (b) above have not been confirmed so far;

(d) the number of clerks that have been confirmed in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Karnal since 15th August 1947 together with the dates of appointment and confirmation respectively, in each case?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon:

A statement is enclosed

(a)		(b)		(c)	(d)
No. of Posts	Date from which they are lying vacant	Number of approved candidated	Date of approval of each candidate		
23	31-1-1953 February 1953 14-11-1949 3-7-1951 1-1-1951 13-7-1950 1-6-1950 4-7-1950 1948(Three posts) 24-8-1951 26-12-1951 7-11-1951 1-10-1950 1-7-1952 11-2-1953 4-1-1953 22-9-1952 2-12-1952 8-12-1952 1951 November 1951	19	27-9-1941 21-7-1942 21-7-1942 October 1942 1-6-1943 29-6-1943 29-6-1943 26-7-1943 13-6-1944 5-12-1944 5-12-1944 5-12-1944 13-6-1943 22-6-1945 1945 21-11-1947 16-8-1948 16-8-1948 13-7-1951	The displaced permanent district officials who have migrated from the West Punjab and have been posted in the office the Deputy Commissioner, Karnal were to be absorted against permanent vacancies in accordance with Government orders. They have been absorbed against twenty one permanent vacancies. Two senior most approved candidates will be confirmed shortly and the remaining , when permanent vacancies will occur.	None

RESTORACTION OF LANDS TO MUSLIMS IN KARNAL DISTRICT

378 Shri Ram Sarup: Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Muslims of village Zabti Chhapra and Sayyad Chhapra, District Karnal, migrated to U.P. and not to Pakistan after the partition;

(b) whether the Government has received any application from the Muslims referred to above asking for the restoration of their lands if so, the dates thereof;

(c) whether the lands of these Muslims have been restored to them so far?

Sardar Ujjal Singh: (a) Government have no definite information.

(b) Six Muslims from village Zabti Chhapra and Syed Chhapra have applied to the Government of India for the issue of certificates under Section 16 (i) of the Administration of Evacuee Property Act XXXI of 1950 towards the end of the year 1952; .

(c) No.

SCHOOLS IN BUTANA CONSTITUENCY, DISTRICT KARNAL.

379. Shri Ram Sarup: Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the total number of High, Middle and Primary Schools in the Butana Constituency, District Karnal at present together with the total number of students respectively in the said Schools?

Shri Jagat Narain: A statement is given below—

High, Middle and Primary Schools in Butana Constituency (District Karnal)

			No. of students
High Schools	..	2	1,987
Middle Schools	..	14	1,603
Primary Schools	..	26	1,557

ROADS IN BUTANA CONSTITUENCY, DISTRICT KARNAL.

380. Shri Ram Sarup: Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the total number of pucca and katcha roads separately at present in the constituency of Butana, District Karnal?

Shri Gurbachan Singh Bajwa The total number of pucca roads is six having a length of 47 miles and that of katcha road sixteen having length of 133 miles.

CONSTRUCTION OF PUCCA ROAD FROM KARNAL TO KUNJPURA.

381. Shri Ram Sarup: Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state —

(a) whether the construction of the pucca road from Karnal to Kunjpura has been completed;

(b) whether the construction of a bridge at Puran on this road is also under consideration?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa: (a) Out of six miles of the road in question with the Public Works Department, five miles have been improved and metalled. The metalling of the remaining portion is under consideration.

(b) Yes.

GOVERNMENT NAGLA FARM TEHSIL AND DISTRICT KARNAL.

382. Shri Ram Sarup: Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government Nagla Farm, Tehsil and District Karnal is running at a loss; if so, the total amount of loss sustained by the Government yearwise during the last 4 years;

(b) whether the Government have any intention to abolish the said Nagla Farm; if so, the land of this farm is proposed to be allotted to refugees?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, (a) No separate accounts showing financial results in respect of each individual mechanical cultivation farm are available. All the mechanical cultivation farms with the Agriculture Department were treated as one unit for the purpose of computation of profit and loss accounts. The Nagla Farm did not exist during 1948-49. The total loss on all such farms (including Nagla Farm in Karnal District) during the last three years, viz. 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 was Rs 17,57,320. Out of the total loss of Rs. 17,57,320 during these three years, the main loss amounting to Rs 15,22,384 occurred during 1950-51 alone. This loss was mainly due to heavy floods in August and September, 1950 resulting in damage to Kharif crops and due to protracted drought in winter months thereby affecting the condition of Rabi crops.

(b) No. The Nagla farm is now being run by the Agriculture Department for the production of improved seeds for supply to the cultivators of this State.

REFERENCE TO THE LATE MR. ASAF ALI

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar)(*Hindi*): Sir, you are perhaps aware that today we have received very sad news. Shri Asaf Ali, one of our ambassadors and a stalwart of our battle for freedom, has suddenly passed away. All the hon. Members of this House are grief-stricken at his sad demise. In fact, not only the House but also the enitre country is mourning his loss. Sir, you have for long remained in close association with the late Shri Asaf Ali. You know how his life was a continuous chain of achievements and success.

[Chief Minister]

Wherever he was called upon to work, he discharged his duties very earnestly and organised the work entrusted to him with full sense of responsibility. Today, we feel deeply grieved over his death. With these few words; Sir, we pay homage to the departed soul and request you to convey the heart-felt sympathy of the House to the bereaved family of the deceased.

Mr. Speaker: I associate myself fully with all that the Chief Minister has said. I have had the privilege of remaining in personal association with the late Shri Asaf Ali. He used to visit Punjab during the course of our political movement. I can vividly recall that the departed leader was a dominant, respectable and a commanding personality in the Gujrat Jail which was especially constructed to house us in. I remember the days when he, very emphatically, used to declare that the day was not far off when the country would attain full freedom. But how lightly did we use to take his prophecies! We were not so optimistic about achieving independence soon and taking over the exalted responsibility of running the government, at least during our own life-time. But his prophecy came out true. Even after the achievement of freedom he rendered very meritorious services to the nation. He played a remarkable and a prominent role in the freedom movement, He courted arrests and went to jail a number of times but his spirits were never damped and he continued his activities which were directed towards the accomplishment of the long—cherished goal—independence. We got more proofs of his ability when he discharged very successfully all the responsibilities which were entrusted to him by the Government of India.

I knew him very intimately because I had a major hand in making him a success in his life. I remember that he acted as my advocate when I was arrested in a political case. In this way we had many personal relations. I endorse every word that has been said by the Chief Minister. I hope that with a view to paying homage to the departed soul, all the hon. Members will please rise in their places and observe silence for a minute.

All the hon. Members then stood up and remained silent for a minute.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SECRETARY ABOUT BILLS RECEIVED FROM THE COUNCIL

Mr. Speaker: Now the Secretary will make some announcements.

Secretary: I have the honour to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Punjab Security of Land Tenures Bill, 1952, and a copy of the Punjab Abolition of Ala Malikiyat and Talukdari Rights Bill, 1952, passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 26th February and 21st March 1953, respectively, and transmitted to the Punjab Legislative Council for its recommendations thereon. These have been returned by the said Council without recommendations.

In pursuance of Rule 2(ii) of the Punjab State Legislature (Communication) Rules, 1952, I beg to inform the House that the Punjab Habitual Offenders (Control and Reform) (Amendment) Bill, 1953 (Bill No. 16), the Punjab Security of State Bill, 1953 (Bill No. 18) and the Evacuee Interest (Separation) Supplementary Bill, 1953 (Bill No. 14) which were passed by the Legislative Council on the 20th, 25th and 26th March 1953, respectively, have been received.

TRANSACTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, THE 9th APRIL 1953.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*): Sir, I beg to move—

> That Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 9th April 1953.

Mr. Speaker, it has been found necessary to transact Government business on Thursday because a certain legislative measure has to be passed before the 16th instant when the President's Act now in force on the subject will expire. Besides this, assent has to be obtained before that day and this work also takes some time. As a very few days are left within which these Bills have to be passed and assented to, it has become necessary to utilize Thursday for official business. Normal work will be transacted from tomorrow onwards and non-official business will be taken up on some other day.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

> That Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 9th April 1953.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, I have risen to oppose this motion. During the last Budget session also all the Thursdays except one were taken up by the Leader of the House for official business on the plea that the Budget had to be passed by a certain day. The Budget has now been passed and under the rules we are entitled to move and discuss non-official Bills and resolutions on Thursdays. I hoped that in deference to the wishes of the hon. Members no motion of this kind would be moved in the current session but I am surprised to find that another excuse has been advanced now.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should kindly withdraw the word 'excuse'.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit: I withdraw it. It has now been said that government business has to be transacted on Thursday because otherwise the President's Act would expire. We have given notices of a number of resolutions which have a bearing on the educational and economic progress of the State. I find that even during the regime of the Unionist Ministry in the pre-partitioned Punjab, non-official business was transacted on Thursdays and private Members introduced their Bills and moved their Resolutions and expressed their views on them. None can gainsay the fact that it is one of the most important rights of the Members to transact private Members' business on Thursdays and we should not be deprived of that right. We are, however, prepared to accept this motion if we are assured that Monday or some other day would be set apart for non-official business. Government should give us a guarantee that at least two days would be provided for private Members' business during the current session. In the absence of such an assurance, we are not prepared to accept this motion.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, this matter has been discussed a number of times before and I have requested the hon. Chief Minister everytime that we should not be deprived of the only day of the week on which non-official Bills and resolutions can be discussed. But on all such occasions he told us that he felt compelled to ask for official business being transacted on those days. I concede that he commands a majority in the House and he can get passed any motion he likes but I beg to submit that this procedure is against parliamentary practice and convention. If it were the question of a majority vote only then the Chief Minister could get all the measures passed in a day without allowing lengthy discussion and spending a number of days over them. The Government may or may not accept our proposals but we must get an opportunity of placing the views of the public before the House. Everytime the hon. Chief Minister said that it was due to certain special reasons that official business had to be transacted on non-official days. What prevented him from having a meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 6th ? If some important work had to be transacted, the Assembly could be asked to reassemble on the 6th instead of the 7th. Where is it laid down that if official business is not transacted on the 9th, President's Ordinances and Acts would expire. As a matter of fact, the Government is afraid of criticism from its own Members or of some such demand being made which the Government does not want to concede. The 16th is still far off and the postponement by one day of the business proposed to be transacted on Thursday makes no difference. Now the work fixed for three days can take longer and also shorter time. The method adopted by the Government is against all conventions. If the Government regards non-official days as superfluous it should amend the existing rules.

I would again submit that we want to co-operate with the Government and do not wish to obstruct business. It is just possible that the work which the Government proposes to finish in one day may take longer but a good deal of time can be saved if the Government secures our co-operation. We should not be deprived of our right simply because the Government has a majority vote at its command. I shall again request the hon. Chief Minister to allow non-official business to be transacted on Thursday next.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday the 9th April, 1953.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said, "I think the Ayes have it". This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Speaker, after calling upon those Members who challenged his decision and supported the claim for a Division, to rise in their places declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared carried.

AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE PUNJAB SECURITY OF LAND TENURES BILL

Minister For Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir, I move—

That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Punjab Security of Land Tenures Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 26th February 1953, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

> **That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Punjab Security of Land Tenures Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 26th February 1953, be taken into consideration.**

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit : On a point of order, Sir. We received a copy of the bill today and got a copy of today's agenda only yesterday. I, therefore, feel that for want of due notice we are not in a position to express our views on the amendments given notice of by the hon. Members. If the Government has any intention to pass this Bill without allowing us any time to consider these amendments then it is at liberty to do so because it can easily pass it with the help of the overwhelming majority it commands. But at the same time I think that it does not behove the Government to adopt suchlike tactics. It should give full opportunity to the Members to ponder over these amendments which are at present before the House so that they may be able to give their suggestions on it.

Mr. Speaker : I may inform the House that my office sent a copy of the Bill and agenda in time to all the hon. Members. It is, therefore, not fair on their part to hurl accusations at the door of my department. Of course, they are at liberty to criticise the Government for anything if they so desire but in regard to the question of despatch of copies of agenda I can say with confidence that there has not been any neglect on the part of my Department. It will not be out of place to mention here that the sure fact that notices of amendments have been received from the hon. Members takes the wind out of their sails. There appears to be little force in the argument that they have not received copies of the Bill. My Secretary is exceptionally devoted to his work and is very vigilant in such matters. He would never give any chance to the hon. Members to raise any objection against this Department.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

> **That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Punjab Security of Land Tenures Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 26th February 19 3, to taken into consideration.**

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I move—

> **That sub-clause (4) substituted by the Council be deleted.**

Sir, when this Bill came up before the House for the first time it was pointed out that this Clause was very ambiguous. Now at the time of reservation of land, the land in garden colonies and with Co-operative Farming Societies will also be taken into account for determining the permissible area of land. The result of this would be that the landlords will start litigation against the tenants in order to eject them from their land. I, therefore, think that this clause being ambiguous should be deleted from the Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

> **That sub-clause (4) substituted by the Council be deleted.**

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I would like to point out to my hon. Friends that the tenants who work in the garden colonies will not be ejected from their land under the provisions of this Bill. The words "save as elsewhere expressly provided" in this clause should not cause any doubts in the mind of hon. Members. However, in order to remove the sting of these words the landholders have been given the right of reservation of land. The wording of the clause as it has emerged from the Council need not cause any apprehension to the the hon. Members. I regret I cannot accept this amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That sub-clause (4) substituted by the Council be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Now the amendment suggested by the Legislative Council to Clause 1 will be put to the vote of the House.

Question is—

That for the existing sub-clause (4), the following be substituted :

"(4) Save as elsewhere expressly provided in this Act nothing contained therein shall apply to—

(i) land in duly registered co-operative garden colonies;

(ii) land held by co-operative farming societies during the period of their continuanc subject to their fulfilling the conditions prescribed under this Act."

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

(a) That in the proviso, line 3, for the word "first" the word "firstly" be substituted.

(b) That in the proviso, line 4, for the word "second" the word "secondly" be substituted.

(c) That in the proviso, line 5, for the word "which" the word "as" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

(a) That in sub-clause (1), lines 1-2, for the words "subject to the provisions of Sections 3 and 4" the words "any reservation before the commencement of this Act shall cease to have effect, and subject to the provisions of Sections 3 and 4 " be substituted.

(b) That in the proviso to sub-clause (1) for part (c) the following be substituted—

"(c) reserved area excluding the area under a Jhundimar tenant or a tenant who has been in continuous occupation for 20 years or more immediately before such reservation".

(c) That in sub-clause (4), line 4, for the words "after commencement" the words "after such commencement and when such land is under self-cultivation" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 7

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That for the existing clause, the following be substituted—

"(7) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law for the time being in force and except as expressly provided by this Act, no tenant on land other than the reserved area of a land-owner shall be liable to ejectment before the expiry of a period of ten years from the commencement of this Act, or from the commencement of his tenancy, whichever is later."

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 9

Mr. Speaker: I call upon Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit to move his amendment.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*): Sir I beg to move—

That in part (viii) proposed by the Council, line 3, between the word "land-owner" and sign "." the words "who wants the land for his self-cultivation" be inserted.

Sir, it is a very important amendment and we hope that the hon. Minister will have no objection to accepting it especially because it is interlinked with some other clauses of the Bill which were commended to the House by him as calculated to lighten the burden of the peasants. Its rejection will affect adversely a very large number of tenants. This legislation has yet to go to the President for his assent. But the tenants have already started receiving notices of ejectment owing to the doubts created in the minds of owners of less than 30 Standard acres of land. Propaganda is already afoot that these landlords will also be expropriated in the near future and they have started ejecting their tenants. I can assure the hon. Minister that if such landlords will not be able to eject their tenants, they will certainly succeed in extorting one-half instead of one-third of the share of crop from them by holding out the threat of eviction.

Then Sir, two developments have followed the introduction of this legislation as surely as anything. Firstly, notices have been served on innumerable tenants and secondly entries in the Patwaris' registers have been tampered with in such a manner as to make it impossible for any one to trace the area which was in fact reserved for self-cultivation.

If the hon. Minister really desires the welfare of the tenants of landlords owning less than thirty standard acres of land, he should accept this amendment and their number is not small. They constitute half the total number of the tenant population of this State. It stands to reason that these landlords should have the right to eject them only if they need the land for self-cultivation. It is fair that the sword of ejectment may continue to hang over their heads for ever? If these tenants are excluded and are afforded no protection, this legislation will fail to solve the problem which it is expected to meet. This amendment is the touchstone of the hon. Minister's sympathy for the peasants and his solicitude for their interests. His acceptance of it would benefit lakhs of tenants.

Mr. Speaker. Motion moved—

That in part (viii) proposed by the Council, line 3, between the word "land-owner and sign "." the word "who wants the land for his self-cultivation" be inserted.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I was amazed to find Sardar Harkishan Singh attempting to make this amendment a touchstone of our intentions. If it could really be a sort of touchstone, I would not need to speak. I beg to differ from him on this point. All that we have to see about this amendment is whether it is really necessary. If this is not so, how can it be regarded as the touchstone of our sympathy for the peasants?

I wonder how he has forgotten that while clause 9 was under discussion a demand was made on their behalf to make a specific provision giving a free hand to the owners of less than thirty acres of land to eject their tenants .When it was pointed out to them that it was understood that such owners will have the right to eject their tenants by serving notices on them, they had persisted in demanding that it should be expressly provided in black and white. Now that on the advice of our laywer friends, the Council has made an express provision to this effect, my hon. Friends opposite are again objecting.

Well, Sir, my hon. Friend's doubts that so long as the word 'self-cultivation' is not there in this clause, the tenants of small owners will have no protection are not justified. I can assure him that the insertion of these words, instead of ensuring protection to them, will have exactly the opposite effect. We don't want to create panic and nervousness among small landlords for, God forbid, if such a thing happens, Punjab will be ruined. In that case, they, too will start ejecting tenants on one pretext or the other without having any intention of taking to self-cultivation. I am quite convinced that by giving a free hand to them, we are ensuring a life-long lease to the tenants concerned. No sensible landlord who knows that he can get rid of a tenant at any time he likes, will ever think of harassing his tenants unnecessarily. It is in view of this that we are allowing free play to forces in the sphere of small landlords and their tenants. When free play is allowed, doubts and fears are allayed, and they gradually give place to confidence and security. If any condition is prescribed in the case of small landlords, they too will start ejecting the tenants and take to self-cultivation somehow or the other. It is just to ward off this danger that we are not doing so and allowing them a free hand and trusting to their good sense.

Then, I fail to understand on what basis my hon. Friend said that ejectments are being made and many tenants will have been ejected by the time this Bill is enforced. I wonder how he forgot that it has been provided in another clause that no ejectment made before 30th April, 1954, will be considered lawful. Serving of notices has not started now. All notices that have been served on tenants since November last will be nullified.

My hon. Friend may rest assured that we have already provided against the danger that is troubling his mind. We sincerely desire the well-being of the tenants but we do not want to act in a manner which may not do any good to them and instead bring discredit to us for nothing. So far as the question of the tenants being intimidated to pay one-half of the share of produce as Batai is concerned, this kind of black-marketing will never be allowed nor are the tenants such simpletons as to acquiesce in such a thing especially when they know that such a powerful Assembly and a powerful organization, like the Congress, are at their back (*Cheers*).

I wish to make it unequivocally clear that while we do want to promote the welfare of the tenants it is far from our intention to make the landlords nervous and panicky. By letting bygones be bygones, we are anxious to see that everybody buries the hatchet and peace and harmony are restored to the rural areas of this State.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in part (viii) proposed by the Council, line 3, between the word "land-owner"and sign". "the words "who wants the land for his self-cultivation" be inserted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Now I will put the amendment suggested by the Legislative Council to Clause 9 to the vote of the House. Question is—

(a) That in part (vi) of sub-clause (2), lines 3-5 for the words "an application.. good cause," the words "being called upon to do so by an Assistant Collector on an application made to him for this purpose by the land-owner" be substituted.

(b) That after part (vii) of sub-clause (2) the following part (viii) be added :

"(viii) is a tenant on the area reserved under this Act by a land-owner or is a tenant of a small land-owner."

(c) That in the beginning of sub-clause (3) the words "Notwithstanding anything contained hereinbefore" be added.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 10

Mr. Speaker: I call upon Sardar Achhar Singh to move his amendment to amendment suggested by the Legislative Council to Clause 10.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I move—

That in sub-clause (1) substituted by the Council, lines 2-3, the words "on grounds....section 9" be deleted.

That in sub-clause (1) substituted by the Council, line 9, between the word "ejectment" and sign "," the words "and subject to the provisions of this Act" be inserted.

Mr. Speaker, through you, I would like to convey to the hon. Minister that the tenants felt overjoyed when they found that the Government as well as the Legislative Assembly were making a provision in this Bill for the restoration of their tenancies with effect from the 15th August, 1947. As a matter of fact, they all appreciated this gesture very much. But now clause 9 has been hedged in with so many conditions that it will, I am afraid, throw cold water on their high hopes because the big landlords will now make an attempt to eject the tenants on the pretext of non-payment of Batai or arrears of rent.

Besides this, clause 10 as amended by the Council nullifies the clause in the form in which we had passed it. This has been done in very clear words which are like this—

"....such tenant shall be entitled to be restored to his tenancy in the manner prescribed on the same terms and conditions on which it was held by him at the time of ejectment."

[Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina]

But this defect can be remedied if the words "And subject to the provisions of this Act," as suggested in the amendment moved by me, are incorporated in clause 10 of the Bill. I feel that the inclusion of these words would help maintain the rejoicings of the tenants over the expected restoration of their tenancies. This will usher in a new era which the hon. Minister wishes to bring about in the State. I hope the hon. Minister would give a favourable consideration to the amendments put forward by me.

Mr. Speaker. Motion moved—

That in sub-clause (1) substituted by the Council, lines 2-3, the words "on grounds ....section 9" be deleted.

That in sub-clause (1) substituted by the Council line 9, between the word "ejectment" and sign"," the words "and subject to the provisions of this Act" be inserted.

Shri Mool Chand Jain (Sambhalka) (*Hindi*): Sir, although there is no amendment standing in my name with regard to this clause since we received copies of the Bill just yesterday and as such there was no time to give notice of any amendment, yet I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Development to a very important point and that is this. The Legislative Council has drafted this clause in a new manner. Some of the changes made are desirable but one of these changes in my view is very dangerous. We considered it desirable that the tenants ejected after the 15th August 1947 should be restored to their tenancies and for this purpose we made a provision also in this Bill. But now the Council has created a hurdle in our way by making an amendment in that provision which stood in the shape of Clause 10 in the Bill. I read out the amendment sent by the Council. It is like this—

"(1) Where a tenant has been ejected from any land in excess of the permissible area on grounds other than those mentioned in Section 9, before the commencement of this Act, and after the 15th August, 1947, and such land is under self-cultivation, tenant shall be entitled to be restored to his tenancy........"

The words, " and such land is under self-cultivation " will create a difficulty for the tenant. I realise that the Council has introduced these words for the reason that it wants to avoid the clash of one tenant with another and I think this is the desire of most of the hon. Members of the House also. If some new tenant has been put on the land on which the old tenant of 1947 is to be restored, it is obvious that there will be a clash between the new and the old tenant. We wish to restore the land which is now in the possession of the land-owner and which is under self-cultivation to the tenant ejected from it after the 15th August 1947. But what will be the actual position? As soon as that land-owner will receive the notice to vacate that land, he will take advantage of this amendment in such a manner that he will not let the old tenant be restored to his tenancy. He will at once give that land to some new tenant. If, therefore, these words are allowed to remain in the Bill, tewenty to one, that land will not be restored to the tenant.

Minister for Development: You are suggesting new loopholes to the land-owners.

Shri Mool Chand Jain: Certainly not. But we should not shut our eyes to the realities.

Minister for Development: But we shall remedy such difficulties in due course,

Shri Mool Chand Jain: I assure the hon. Minister that I am not purposely disclosing any loopholes to the big landlords. But considering it to be my duty, I am telling them on your behalf, Sir, the shortcomings which I find in this amendment. You should not consider the landlord to be a fool; he is very shrewd. I do not like this attitude of yours, the attitude of a pigeon when it sees a cat. The pigeon shuts its eyes on seeing the cat, thereby thinking that the cat does not exist. Then these words, " and such land is under self-cultivation " are quite clear. This change has been made not only in Clause 10 but also in Clause 5. These clearly show that the chances are that no land will be restored to the tenants ejected after the 15th August, 1947. Of course, if the words here had been, " such land has been or was under self-cultivation on such and such a date ", it would have been a different thing.

Mr. Speaker: You kindly tell us as to what subject you are speaking on. There is no amendment either in your name. Are you opposing the original amendment or suggesting a new one?

Shri Mool Chand Jain: Sir, through you, I am drawing the attention of the hon. Minister for Development to a serious defect that has been allowed to remain in the drafting of the Bill, so that he may correct it when he gets an opportunity to do so otherwise the quesion of restoration of tenants ejected after the 15th August 1947 will become a joke.

Shri Teg Ram (Khuian Sarwar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, this Security of Land Tenures Bill which has now come back from the Council, has passed through many stages. At first, a committee consisting of 14 members was appointed to enquire into the condition of tenants and to find out ways of improving it. It was the job of the committee to suggest the lines on which this Bill should be prepared. When that committee finished its work, there was some talk about the passage of this Bill in the Autumn Session of the last year, but then it was referred to a Select Committee. After that committee had considered it, it was introduced during the current Budget Session. After its passage in this House, it was sent to the Council and now it has come back from there. What I mean to say is that it should have been passed long ago since it was introduced by our Ministry after seeing a large number of notices of ejectments being served on the peasants. Although it does not solve all the difficulties of the peasants........

Minister for Development : Sir, he should discuss the amendment that is under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should refrain from discussing the Bill. It has already been passed. He should confine his remarks to the amendment now before the House.

Shri Teg Ram: Sir, I am coming to the same point. I want to say just this that the landlords have money. Their legal advisers certainly find out some way by which land is not given to the tenants and it remains in their own possession. But the interests of the peasants are safeguarded through this Bill to a large extent. Now, the harvesting operations have commenced and the division of the crops has started. The passage of this Bill should not, therefore, be delayed now even for a moment, so that the land-owner may not get an opportunity to do some mischief. With these words, I oppose the amendment moved by Sardar Achhar Singh and support the amendment suggested by the Council.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have to say two things in support of this amendment and I hope that the Government will give due consideration to them. In accordance with clause 9, as we all know, ejectment will be possible in the case of lands, which are subject to " Batai ". In former days, the contracts were not reduced to writing and there are thousands of cases in which Batai is charged and the tenants can also be ejected. I know thousands of cases in which illiterate tenants have been ejected and use has been made of the excuse of Batai. If the clause is allowed to remain as it is, it means that the lands subject to Batai should not be restored. This will deprive many poor tenants, particularly the scheduled caste tenants, of their rights.

The second thing that I wish to point out is that a study of its old manifestos clearly shows that the Congress has all along been opposed to the idea of realising the rent arrears like the arrears of land-revenue. A great stress was laid on this point at the Faizpur session of the Congress. The big Jagirdars have always held that the rent arrears should be realized in the same way in which the arrears of land-revenue were realized. But the Congress has always been opposing them. According to the Congress, rent arrears should be treated as a debt. The Faizpur session supported the idea that the rent arrears should be realized like a debt. But it is a pity that the Congrss is going against this decision. It has been said that it is a very useful Bill for the tenants. I think they will soon be disillusioned. After sometime we shall place facts and figures before the Government to show the number of tenants who will be restored. I would again say that it would be better for the Government to accept our amendments. This clause in its present form will not benefit the tenants from either point of view.

The next thing relates to language only. This Bill has been brought forth by the Government itself and there should be no hitch in adding the words " Subject to the provisions of this Act ". These words will explain matters. The Government should not reject this amendment simply because it has emanated from the Opposition.

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh) (*Punjabi*): Sir, two or three points have been made out by my hon. Friends in connection with this clause The first thing that they have said that some words should be added which would show that everything will be done in accordance with this Act. I don't think there is any need for that. Everything has got to be done in accordance with this Act. Nothing contradictory can be done under it. In case there is something which is not clear in the Act, that can be provided for in the rules. That is why the Government has been empowered to frame rules. All contradictory and ambiguous things are explained in the rules. This Act need not contain long explanations.

An hon. Friend has remarked that under clause 9, all the tenants will be ejected from the remaining area. It appears as if my learned Friend has not read the explanation. It has been clearly provided that such a thing will only happen if rent is not regularly paid or if there are some other good grounds for taking this step. And then things have to be decided by courts and such step is to be taken if the requisite payment is not made within two months of the passing of the decree. I think my hon. Friends would agree with me, when I say, that generally justice is done in the courts. They must have also noticed that the Government and the courts are more favourably disposed towards the tenants. In these circumstances, it is not possible to expect that ejectments would be unreasonably ordered or that the restorations would be unreasonably withheld. We should have no such misunderstanding

Shri Mool Chand has suggested that the words "and such land is under self-cultivation" should be deleted. I think these words are badly needed. In the absence of these words the tenants are likely to come into conflict with each other. The old and the new tenants may oppose each other. It is for this reason that I would like to retain these words. The hon. Member should know that even otherwise under clause 9 no tenant can be ejected till the 30th April 1954.

Shri Mool Chand Jain : Can't the new tenants be appointed ?

Minister for Finance : New tenants cannot be appointed. And then I have submitted that if there be any lacuna in the Act that can be removed in the rules or a subsequent amendment can be brought forth. At any rate, I have no doubt that the object is clear and that if any further clarification be needed the same can be provided in the rules. If the rules can't help we can have recourse to an amendment. We are always prepared to help the tenants and shall see that the landlords do not exploit them. What we want is that the tenants should not come into conflict with each other and that they should not be ejected. The need for an amendment to clause 10 has been felt in view of the fact that there was some scope in it for misunderstanding things. Now that defect has been removed and a period of six months has been fixed for the notice. I think this amendment which has been suggested by the Upper House is a very useful one and it should be accepted.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, my hon. Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh has lucidly explained every point to the hon. Members. However, I would like to say something about the provision—

Where such tenant shall be entitled to be restored to his tenancy in the manner prescribed.

My submission is that there are many classes of tenants who do not exactly know whether or not they can be included in this particular category and many examples can be quoted in this connection. There is no difference of 'is' or 'was'. The fact is that this clause has been framed in accordance with the time and conditions at present prevailing in the State. If a tenant is ejected after a period of 6 months the owner will have to bear greater loss. Mr. Speaker, I would ask them not to feel worried at all so long as the hon. Members who want to enact this legislation are honest and good at heart. They should not be afraid of the word 'self-cultivation'.It has been simply inserted to remove the mutual conflicts of the tenants. The words 'In the manner prescribed' refer to the time when the Rules are framed and its purpose is to provide a guarantee and protection to the tenants. I would, therefore, request them not to exaggerate even simple facts. What I have been able to perceive is that they are neither sympathisers nor well-wishers of the tenants. Had they been in sympathy with the tenants they would not have advanced these frivolous arguments. I do not want to dilate upon this point any more but would ask my hon. Friends to make a careful perusal of this Bill. They would find the present Bill clearer than the previous one. Its object is to restrain a tenant from coming into conflict with another. I am, therefore, not in a position to accept the amendments suggested by my hon. Friend opposite.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in sub-clause (1) substituted by the Council, lines 2-3, the words "on grounds.. section 9" be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in sub-clause (1) substituted by the Council, line 9, between the word "ejectment" and sign "," the words "and subject to the provisions of this Act" be inserted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : I will put the amendment of the Legislative Council to Clause 10 to the vote of the House. Question is—

That for sub-clause (1), the following be substituted—

"(1) where a tenant has been ejected from any land in excess of the permissible area on grounds other than those mentioned in section 9, before the commencement of this Act, and after the 15th August, 1947, and such land is under self-cultivation, such tenant shall be entitled to be restored to his tenancy in the manner prescribed on the same terms and conditions on which it was held by him at the time of his ejectment, on an application made by him within six months from the commencement of this Act or from the date of intimation of a reservation made under this Act to an Assistant Collector of the first grade having jurisdiction."

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 14

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in sub-clause (1), line 2, for the words "a valid receipt" the words "a valid receipt to the tenant" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 16

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in line 3, between the words and sign "in force" and "," the words "or by an heir by inheritance" be inserted.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 17

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That after part (i), the following be added—

"(ii) in case of a sale or foreclosure that has taken place or shall take place within a period of three years from the commencement of this Act and there is no tenant who has acquired a right under clause (i)".

and

that for the existing letters and brackets "(ii)" and "(iii)" the words and brackets "(a)" and "(b)" be respectively substituted.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 18

Mr. Speaker : I call upon Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit to move his amendment.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nokodar) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That for the addition proposed by the Council to sub-clause (2), the following be substituted—

"which shall be twice the annual rent payable for the same land".

CLAUSE 7

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That Clause 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Labour (Chaudhri Sundar Singh) : Sir, I move—

That the Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved —

That the Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That the Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 *p. m. on Wednesday, the* 8*th April* 1953.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

8th April 1953

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 8th April, 1953

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 p. m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO POLITICAL SUFFERERS IN THE STATE

***1738. Shri Babu Dayal** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under the consideration of the Government to allot land to political sufferers in the State ; if so, the area of land in acres reserved for this purpose district-wise in the State ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) Yes.

(b) 4,000 acres of waste lands have been reserved in Karnal District only for long lease to political sufferers under the East Punjab Utilization of Lands Act, 1949.

The question of reserve area elsewhere is under the consideration of Government.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the hon. Minister tell the area of which possession has been given and which forms part of the four thousand reserved acres of land ?

Minister : Possession has not yet been given. Hon. Members know that land is to be distributed among all and all land not being alike, distribution will take some time. I think it will take about a month and a half. The distribution may have to be done by lottery or by some other suitable method. Hon. Members should rest assured that everything will be done methodically and nobody will have any complaint.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut: Have some Communists, Akalis or members of some other parties been also included in the list of political sufferers who are to get land ?

Minister : The hon. Member appears to have again raised the Hindu-Muslim controversy. He should know that all political sufferers are to be helped.

Shri Ram Kishan : Has any communist been also included in the Committee which has been set up for purposes of allotment ?

Minister : The hon. Member is aware of the personnel of the Committee.

Shri Babu Dayal : What is the number of political sufferers who are to get land ?

Mr. Speaker: This question relates to the area of land and it has nothing to do with the number of people.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR RECREATION OF PRISONERS IN JAILS

***1746. Shri Rala Ram** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether any arrangements for recreation of prisoners in jails have been made so far by the Government ; if so, the details of amenities so provided to them ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Yes. A statement showing the arrangements made in the jails of Punjab for the recreation of prisoners is given below.

STATEMENT

Arrangements have been made in the jails of Punjab for the recreation of prisoners by providing the following amenities :—

(i) Indoor and outdoor games, viz., Playing Cards, Chess, Chaupat, Volley Ball, Basket Ball (at prisoners' own expense) ;

(ii) Yogic exercises ;

(iii) Library Books and Newspapers ;

(iv) Radio Sets ;

(v) Cinema shows by the Publicity Department ; and

(vi) Dramatic performances by the prisoners.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : The hon. Minister has said that radio sets have been supplied . I ask have these sets been placed in the offices of the jails or inside the jails ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member can go and see.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : I know how these sets are being used.

DEATH OF DARBARA SINGH OF VILLAGE KANIAN KALAN, DISTRICT JULLUNDUR

***1754. Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that one Darbara Singh of Village Kanian Kalan, Police Station Shahkot, District Jullundur, was shot dead on 10th February 1952 by a police party led by Head Constable Romel Singh of Police Station Dharmkot, District Ferozepore,

(b) whether he is also aware of the fact that two relatives of Darbara Singh, Kehar Singh and Mehar Singh, were arrested by the police ;

(c) whether the Government is further aware of the fact that the villagers of Kanian Kalan were terrorised and that menfolk had even to leave the village because of that ;

(d) if the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, the action Government has taken or proposes to take in the matter ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) Answers to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative and to (c) in the negative. A magisterial enquiry was held at the spot by Sh. Onkar Nath, Magistrate, 1st Class, at the instance of Police. It has not concluded so far.

SETTING UP OF A HARIJAN WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN THE STATE

*1756. **Shri Ram Parkash** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government has proposed to set up a Harijan Welfare Department in the State ; if so, since when ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : *First part*—No.

Second part.—Does not arise.

2. In October, 1950, however, a Welfare Section was created in the Punjab Civil Secretariat, under the Chief Secretary, to look after the interests of the backward classes.

Shri Ram Parkash : It is clear that there are 261 vacancies in the Secretariat, Do.....

Minister for Labour : That is the answer to the next question and not to this.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh : What work has been done by this Welfare Department ?

Chief Minister : Welfare work.

Mr. Speaker : And that also for the Harijans (*Laughter*).

STRENGTH OF THE PUNJAB CIVIL SECRETARIAT ESTABLISHMENT AT SIMLA AND JULLUNDUR

*1757. **Shri Ram Parkash** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the strength of the Punjab Civil Secretariat Establishment at Simla and Jullundur such as Junior Clerks, Senior Clerks, Assistants, Superintendents, Assistant Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Secretaries at present ;

(b) the number of posts of each category that fell vacant since April, 1952 ;

(c) the number of such vacancies that have gone to Harijans in each cadre mentioned above ;

(d) the steps so far taken by the Government to make up the proportio n of 19 per cent reservation for Harijans in services ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) (b) and (c). A statement indicating the required information is given below. No part of the Punjab Civil Secretariat is located at Jullundur.

(d) The posts of Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries are on I. A. S. cadre while those of Under-Secretaries are on P. C. S. cadre, and are filled from amongst these officers with due regard to their seniority and merit. There is no Harijan officer at present in the I. A. S. cadre. The claims of Harijans in P. C. S. are considered when appointments are made to the posts of Under-Secretaries. As regards the posts of Assistant Secretaries, Superintendents, Assistants and Senior Clerks, these are generally filled by promotion from amongst officials already working in the Secretariat on posts immediately lower to those to which they are to be promoted. Harijan officials also get these promotions when their turns come round. It is only the posts of Junior Clerks which are filled by direct appointment and to make up the deficiency of Harijans in this cadre the posts are advertised in the press and the Employment Exchanges are also asked to recommend suitable Harijan candidates. Despite this, Harijan candidates with requisite qualifications are not forthcoming.

STATEMENT

Serial No.	Designation of the post	Total strength	No. of posts which fell vacant since April, 1952	No. of vacancies that have gone to Harijans out of those mentioned in column (4)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Secretaries to Government ..	4	2	..
2	Deputy Secretaries to Government	1	..	..
3	Under-Secretaries to Government ..	6	3	1
4	Assistant Secretaries to Government	3	..	..
5	Superintendents ..	27	8	..
6	Assistants ..	147	12	1
7	Senior Clerks ..	76	5	..
8	Junior Clerks ..	197	32	2

Shri Ram Parkash : In the light of the reply given by the Chief Minister the representation of the Harijans in services does not come up to 10 per cent. May I know how does the Government propose to make up this deficiency and raise the representation to 19 per cent.

Chief Minister : Although I have replied to this question more than one time I repeat it again that the Government's decision of raising the representation of Harijans in services to 19 per cent concerns the new appointments. In this connection I would like to make it clear to the House that supposing the Government decides to select seven candidates for the recruitment of P. C. S. Officers one of whom is to be Harijan, a Harijan must be

taken even if he is placed on the forty-seventh position in order to fulfil this condition. As a matter of fact this condition is fulfilled in all cases where the Harijan candidates are available but the Government feels handicapped where they do not become available.

Shri Ram Parkash : Is the Government not in a position to postpone he appointments of the candidates belonging to other communities till Harijans get proper representation.

Chief Minister : It is not possible that cent per cent vacancies in all the departments should be filled by Harijans. This concession has, however, been extended to them in the Excise and Taxation Department where all the vacancies are filled by the Harijans. It would not be out of place to mention here that our Harijan Minister always presses hard for the uplift of the Harijans and has great sympathy for them.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Would the Chief Minister be pleased to state the grounds on which the condition of completing the desired ratio of 19 per cent has not been fulfilled while making the recent recruitment of Junior Clerks ?

Chief Minister : The reply is clear and it is that the candidates were not available.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : The requisite qualification for the purpose is only Matriculation and many Matriculates are available. Then why this condition of 19 per cent reservation has not been fulfilled ?

Chief Minister : A person may have passed the examination of Master of Arts but if he does not submit an application how can he be recruited as a Junior Clerk? The recruitment of Junior Clerks is generally made by the Local Government who invites applications through the Employment Exchange. If the latter office does not send the required number of applicants the Government is obliged to recruit other candidates.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit : May I know what steps Government proposes to take in regard to the higher posts ?

Chief Minister : The promotions from amongst the existing staff are made on the basis of merit and seniority and nobody's seniority is disturbed while making these promotions. However, special attention is paid to keep up the decided ratio of 19 per cent for Harijans while making new appointments.

Shri Mool Chand Jain : May I know if such a condition has been imposed on Colleges and Schools for purposes of making admissions ?

Mr. Speaker : It is not a supplementary question.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh : What action is taken by the Government in cases where the applications from Harijans are not received in adequate number ?

Chief Minister : The posts remain vacant until the Government's sanction is received for filling them by candidates other than Harijans.

[Chief Minister]
I would like to assure the hon. Members of this House that the Government is determined to afford every assistance to the Harijans who live even in the remote corners of the State.

RECOVERY OF ILLICIT ARMS IN THE STATE

***1767. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of illicit arms of various categories recovered by the Police, ditstrict-wise in the State during the period from April, 1952, upto date with particular reference to haul, if any, of indigenous arms-making factory or factories ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : *Part I.* The following illicit arms were recovered district-wise in the Punjab State from 1st April, 1952 to 28th February, 1953:—

—	Pistols	Revolvers	Stenguns	Bren-guns	Guns	Rifles	Cart-ridges
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Hissar ..	143	6	..	..	59	7	788
Rohtak ..	55	11	1	..	52	3	651
Gurgaon ..	8	2	..	..	39	6	375
Karnal ..	26	2	..	..	68	5	155
Ambala ..	12	..	..	..	8	4	263
Simla ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kangra ..	3	..	..	..	70	..	237
Hoshiarpur ..	27	18	..	..	10	5	1,040
Jullundur ..	27	24	..	..	6	5	367
Ludhiana ..	14	7	2	..	20	12	1,223
Ferozepore ..	368	83	1	1	89	59	1,379
Amritsar ..	78	50	..	..	18	26	1,225
Gurdaspur ..	47	2	1	..	22	2	532
Total ..	808	205	5	..	461	132	8,235

(*Note.* The figures include both foreign and country-made weapons).

Part II. Only one indigenous arms-making factory was discovered in Gurdaspur District.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit : May I know if any political party had a hand in what we have been told about illicit arms ?

(*No reply*)

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to say why the Ferozepore District is found to be leading other districts in the matter of illicit arms ?

(*No reply*)

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : May I know if this list includes any country-made arms ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that some of the arms were country-made and others were imported ones.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Will the Chief Minister kindly let the House know how many of these arms were country-made ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member puts a separate question the required details will be supplied.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : Will the Chief Minister please let us know what arms were being made in the factory that has been found in the Gurdaspur District ?

Chief Minister : Those people prepared such arms in the factory as suited their requirements.

FIRING ON REFUGEES IN YOL CAMP

***1782. Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any firing took place on the refugees living in Yol Camp ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) the number and the names of the injured and dead persons as a result of the said firing ;

(c) whether any judicial inquiry was held by the Government into the circumstances that led to the firing ; if so, with what results ;

(d) the action, if any, taken by the Government on the findings of the report referred to above ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) Yes, the Police had to open fire in self-defence on an unruly and violent mob of refugees living in the Relief Camp, Yol, who had formed themselves into an unlawful assembly, obstructed the Police in the discharge of their duty in defiance of section 144, Cr. P. C., and resorted to violent stone-throwing when the Police made a mild Lathi-charge to effect their dispersal.

(b) 23 injured and 6 dead. Their names are given below :—

Injured—

Police	*Refugees*
1. H. C. Tara Chand	1. Kuldip Chand
2. S. I. Mehar Chand	2. Hukam Singh
3. A. S. I. Bhag Singh	3. Roop Chand
4. H. C. Gobind Singh	4. Lilla Kaur
5. F. C. Som Datt	5. Gian Kaur

[Chief Minister]

Police

6. F. C. Panna Lal
7. F. C. Ramji Dass
8. F. C. Duni Chand
9. F. C. Ujagar Singh

Refugees

6. Jaswant Kaur
7. Maina Wanti
8. Mst. Nokhi
9. Atma Ram
10. Maya Devi
11. Nirmal Devi
12. Gulab Kaur
13. Partap Singh
14. Sunder Singh

Dead—

1. S. Narinder Singh, D. S. P.

1. Mansa Ram
2. Baldev Raj
3. Naranjan Singh
4. Mst. Soma
5. Mst. Toti

(c) A Magisterial Enquiry has been held into the incident and the findings are now with the Government.

(d) The report is under the consideration of the Government.

Shri Ram Kishan : The Chief Minister has said that the report has been received by the Government. Will he kindly let us know the findings contained in it ?

Chief Minister : I have already stated that the said report is still under consideration of the Government. However, I may say this much for the satisfaction of the hon. Member that cases in respect of all these incidents, especially the pistol shooting incident, have been registered and investigation is going on. When these cases go to the courts everything will become known from the evidence that will be led.

POSTING OF PUNITIVE POLICE POST IN VILLAGE SADALPUR, DISTRICT HISSAR

***1788. Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a punitive police post was set up in Village Sadalpur, Tehsil Bhiwani, District Hissar in, April, 1951 ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : It is a fact that a punitive police post was set up in Village Sadalpur for Villages Sadalpur and Dhand, Tehsil Fatehabad (not Bhiwani), District Hissar, in April, 1951. The reasons for setting up the same are the disturbed condition of these villages and the conduct of their inhabitants.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to say whether the punitive police post is still there or has it been removed ?

Chief Minister : This information was not sought in the main question. I have given the information that was asked for. If the hon. Member is anxious to have this new detail he can write to me for it.

PASSING OF TEST BY TEMPORARY CLERKS IN DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, KARNAL

***1805. Shri Jagdish Chander :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some temporary clerks in the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Karnal, have passed the test prescribed by the Government ; if so, the names of such clerks together with their period of temporary services ;

(b) whether these clerks have been brought on the approved list ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) 1*st part.* Yes.

2*nd part* . It is not the practice to give names. There are twelve clerks whose period of temporary service ranges from one to nine-and-a-half years.

(b) No. Because already there was sufficient number of candidates on the approved list and now they have become over age.

CANCELLATION OF GUN LICENCES IN DISTRICT KARNAL

***1806. Shri Jagdish Chander :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of gun licences of persons residing in Thana Pehowa, District Karnal, which were cancelled on 25th October, 1952 ;

(b) the number of persons who applied for the restoration of their licences together with their names and the action taken by the Government on their applications separately ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) Nil.

(b) Does not arise.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO HARIJANS FOR CREMATION PURPOSES IN VILLAGE AKHOYA HINDWAN—DISTRICT AMBALA

***1732. Shri Ram Parkash:** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether any land was allotted to the Harijans in Village Akhoya Hindwan, Tehsil and District Ambala, for cremation purposes in the last consolidation, if so, the area of the land so allotted ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : No. Consolidation work has not been taken up so far in Village Akhoya Hindwan and therefore the question of allotment of land for cremation purposes to Harijans does not arise for the present.

Shri Ram Parkash : Has it come to the notice of the Minister that Consolidation of Holdings in the Village of Akhoya Hindwan has been completed but no place has been left for cremation ground ?

Minister : When was consolidation of holdings effected in that village ?

Shri Ram Parkash : It was completed last year.

Minister : The report received by me shows that consolidation has not taken place there as yet while the hon. Member says that it has been already completed. I shall, therefore, have to make further enquiries before I can say why no place has been left for cremation ground.

PEASANTS' WELFARE FUND

***1742. Shri Rala Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the amount still in balance in the Peasants' Welfare Fund together with the amount received by the Government from the Peasants' Welfare Fund of Joint Punjab at or after the partition ;

(b) whether any stipends to the sons of poor peasants are being awarded at present out of this fund ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) Since the Peasants' Welfare Fund has not been constituted in this State after the partition of the country, the information required is not available.

(b) Does not arise.

GRANT OF WAR JAGIRS IN THE STATE

***1743. Shri Rala Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether any War Jagirs have been sanctioned by the Government in the State during the year 1952-53 out of the sum provided in the Budget for 1952-53 ; if so, the amount that has fallen to the share of Hoshiarpur District ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : *First part* . Yes.

Second part . No War Jagirs were sanctioned for the Hoshiarpur District during the year 1952-53. However, 201 War Jagirs of an annual value of Rs. 20,570 were sanctioned during the year 1951-52 for this district.

DISTRIBUTION OF TACCAVI LOANS IN TEHSIL NAKODAR, DISTRICT JULLUNDUR

***1755. Sardar Harkishen Singh Surjit** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs. 1 lac was distributed as Taccavi Loans in Tehsil Nakodar, District Jullundur, last year ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that a sum of Rs. 60 thousands was given as Taccavi Loan to one big Landlord of Mehatpur and that only the sum of Rs. 40 thousands was distributed to all the rest; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) Yes.

(b) (i) A sum of Rs. 2,650 only was advanced in Village Mehatpur to 5 landlords by the Revenue Department (Mahal side) for sinking of new and repairs to old wells. Rs. 53,200 were advanced in the rest of the Tehsil.

(ii) No one big landlord of Mehatpur was given a loan of Rs. 60 thousands but a loan of Rs. 10,000 for the purchase of tractor was advanced to Shri Inder Singh, etc. (group of 4 allottees) and Rs. 500 were advanced to 2 allottees on account of repairs of houses by the Rehabilitation Department. The remaining sum of Rs. 93,745 was advanced in the rest of the Tehsil.

CONSOLIDATION OF LAND HOLDINGS IN TEHSIL KAITHAL, DISTRICT KARNAL

***1768. Shri Gopi Chand Gupta** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government has received any request from the people of Villages Gumthala Gadhu, Kaul, Fatehpur, Pindi, etc., Tehsil Kaithal, District Karnal, for the early consolidation of land holdings in Kaithal Tehsil: if so, the action, if any, taken by the Government thereon together with the time by which the consolidation work is expected to begin in Kaithal Tehsil ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : No. However, according to the programme already decided by Government the turn of Kaithal Tehsil is expected to come in August, 1955.

ORDERS PASSED BY THE REVENUE ASSISTANT, GURDASPUR, FOR THE STOPPAGE OF CUTTING THE STANDING CROPS

***1773. Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that orders have been passed by the Revenue Assistant, Gurdaspur, recently directing the tenants not to cut the crops and appointing Receivers for the standing crops without hearing the tenants ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : *First part.* No general orders were passed by the Revenue Assistant, Gurdaspur, though Receivers were appointed by him in a few judicial cases in the last harvest.

Second part . The Receivers were appointed according to law.

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE NAIB-TEHSILDAR, PATHANKOT

***1774. Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina**: Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the Panchayat of Village Khojki Chak, Thana Narote Jaimal Singh, Tehsil Pathankot, District Gurdaspur, forwarded a complaint against the Naib-Tehsildar of Pathankot Tehsil to the Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur ; if so, the nature thereof and the action taken thereon ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : Yes. It was alleged that the land revenue collected was not credited by the Naib-Tehsildar to the Treasury. On inquiry, however, the allegation was found to be incorrect.

REGISTRATION OF CASES OF THEFT OF WOOD OR CUTTING OF TREES, ETC., IN DISTRICT GURDASPUR

***1775. Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of cases of theft of wood or cutting of trees, etc., registered under section 379, I. P. C., in District Gurdaspur during the period from 15th August, 1947, to February, 1953; together with the decisions of the courts in such cases ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : *Part I.* 182 cases were registered.

Part II. Their result is as under :—

Cases challaned	.. 79	Convicted	..	45
		Acquitted	..	20
		Pending in court	..	14
		Total	..	79
Cases untraced or cancelled			..	103
		Total	..	182

REPRESENTATION FROM TENANTS OF VILLAGE TELUPURA, DISTRICT FEROZEPORE

***1787. Shri Wadhawa Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether any representations have been received by the Government in February, 1953, from about 40 tenants of Village Telupura near Ratta Khera, Police Station Jalabad, Tehsil Muktsar, District Ferozepore, regarding their ejectment; if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) No.

(b) The question of prevention of ejectment of tenants is under the consideration of the Government.

Shri Wadhawa Ram : May I know how long will it take the Government to think over it ?

Minister : A Bill has been drafted in connection with the first query of the hon. Member . So far as the question of 'Girdawaries ' is concerned, the Government is looking into the matter.

CLOSURE OF THE FARIDABAD POWER HOUSE

***1727. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht** : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state whether the Government is aware of a recent proposal by the Government of India for closing the Faridabad Township Power House for reasons of continued financial loss ; if so, whether the Punjab Government was consulted in this matter, and the decision if any ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes, the Punjab Government are aware of the Government of India's proposal of closing down the Faridabad Township Power House and they have strongly recommended not to close down this Power House.

SUPPLY OF WATER IN SUNDER BRANCHES

***1736. Shri Lajpat Rai** : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state whether the water shall be supplied in Jhajjar and Toshan (Sunder) Branches for kharif crops (kapas, etc.), during this year; if so, the date when the water shall begin to be supplied to these two branches so that they may become perennial ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: The water will be supplied for kharif crops during this year but not for such kharif crops which are to be sown before the 15th June, such as kapas, etc. No particular date can be given for making the channel perennial but it is expected that this will be done by the end of July, 1953.

DIGGING OF A NEW RAJBAHA IN TEHSIL KAITHAL

***1769. Shri Gopi Chand Gupta** : Will the Minister of Irrigation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government has received any request from the people of Villages Dhand Chandlana, Chuharma Jr, Pharal, Solhu Majra, Kaul, Khanduda, Barot and Bandrana, etc., of Kaithal Tehsil for the sanction of a new *Rajbaha* from Ghaurbari ;

(b) whether the Zamindars of the above villages offered their honorary services for digging it out provided they were given the alignments (Nishan) ; if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in this connection ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, the Zamindars did offer their services for digging of the *Rajbaha*. The area of the villages in question is, however, situated between the present irrigation boundary of the Sarusti system and the Sirsa Branch. Irrigation will be provided to these villages when the Bhakra Canals are completed for which an overall scheme is to be prepared by the Bhakra Canals Administration. The piece-meal provision of irrigation for such areas is neither possible nor desirable.

Shri Gopi Chand : The hon. Minister has announced that water would be supplied to Sirsa according to the system of the non-perennial canals until a regular water-supply was arranged. The supply will be regulated when water is diverted to the Sirsa Branch.........

Minister : Who said ?

Shri Gopi Chand : The Minister for Irrigation.

Mr. Speaker : This is giving information.

***1783. Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that consumers of electricity had deposited with the Jullundur Electric Supply Company, Jullundur, lakhs of rupees before the said company was taken over by the Government in the year 1952 ; if so, the amount of security deposit and the action taken by the Government for refunding the same to the depositors ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes. A sum of Rs. 2,11,278-5-3 reported to have been deposited as securities by the consumers with the Jullundur Electric Company have since been paid by that Company to Government. This amount has since been credited to the account of consumers against the securities required to be deposited by them with the Government.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the hon. Minister kindly state whether the Minister-in-charge announced in a meeting of the Tube-wells Association at Jullundur held in the month of July, 1952, that all the securities would be refunded ?

Minister : I do not think he said that. Even if he made such an announcement, the securities cannot be refunded until the consumers get the electric connections.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister be pleased to state whether any representation for the refund of the securities has been received by the Government from the Electric Supply Company ?

Minister : This has not been enquired in the main question. However, I am to state that the securities could not be returned to the proprietors of the company, when the company has been acquired by the Government ?

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister state whether the securities will be had from the new consumers ?

Minister : This has not been enquired in the original question, but still I would like to inform the hon. Members that the security is taken from each consumer.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Minister state whether the Government is willing to refund the securities of the old consumers , in case they are not obtained from the new ones ?

Minister : No. They will be had from those who have not yet deposited it.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The Minister has remarked that firstly he (the Minister for Irrigation) must not have committed himself to anything. He further said that even if he did, that commitment could not be implemented. May I know whether or not the commitments of the Ministers are final?

Minister : The hon. Minister-in-charge could reply to that question if he were present in the House.

STATE FINANCE CORPORATION

***1825. Shri Ram Chandra Comrade** : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether all the shares of one crore rupees of the State Finance Corporation have since been sold by the Government; if so, the names of the Banks, Insurance Companies, Trusts, Financial Institutions and individuals who have purchased the shares together with the number of shares purchased by each ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : The State Government have subscribed for shares of the value of Rs. 30 lakhs and the Reserve Bank of Rs. 20 lakhs. The share list will open on the 1st May, 1953 and the quota of shares for the remaining parties has been fixed as below :—

		Rs.
(1)	Scheduled banks ..	25 lakhs
(2)	Co-operative Banks ..	5 lakhs
(3)	Insurance Companies, Investment trusts and other financial institutions ..	10 lakhs
(4)	Parties other than those referred to in (1), (2) and (3) ..	10 lakhs

REPAIR OF PUNDRI D. B. ROAD IN TEHSIL KAITHAL

***1770. Shri Gopi Chand Gupta:** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state :—

(a) the date when the orders were issued by the Government for the repair of the Pundri D. B. Road in Kaithal Tehsil ;

(b) whether the road referred to above has been repaired so far ; if not, the reasons therefor and the date by which it is expected to be repaired ;

(c) whether the road referred to above is intended to be repaired from the crossing of the main pacca Karnal-Kaithal Road to Pundri Town and not from Fatehpur to Karnal ;

(d) whether the Government has received any representation from the people of Village Fatehpur for the repair of the Fetepur D.B. Road from the main Karnal-Kaithal Road crossing to Fatehpur Village; if so, the action taken by the Government thereon together with the date by which it is expected to be repaired?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : (a) 14th February, 1951.

(b) No. It was in February last that funds for repair were placed at the disposal of the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, Ambala, after the disposal of the representations put in by the District Board, Karnal, from time to time and its failure to execute the work themselves . He has been asked to complete the work immediately.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. The representation has been received a few days ago and report of the local officers has been called.

LEVY OF LOCAL RATE BY THE DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE STATE

***1789. Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state :—

(a) whether there are any rules governing the levy of local rate by the District Boards in the State ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the local rate collectd by the District Board, Hoshiarpur, is higher than that colleceted any other District Board in the State ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : (a) The levy of local rate by the District Board is governed by the Local Rate Rules, 1926.

(b) No. On the other hand the District Board, Hoshiarpur, realises the local rate at 3-6 annas per rupee on the annual value of land, while the local rate levied by some other District Boards is higher than this.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : At present, the tax is levied at Hoshiarpur at the rate of Rs. 43-12-0. Does not it amount to annas 3-6 per rupee ?

Mr. Speaker : Are you sure about it ?

Minister : Will the hon. Member repeat what he has said ?

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : I was saying that previously the local rate was charged at the rate of Rs. 37-8-0 but now it has been raised to Rs. 43-12-0 per cent. How does it come to annas 3-6 per rupee ?

Minister : The position is that there is no question of percentage in the District Boards. The local rate there is charged at the rate of 0-4-0 per rupee. Since revenue is collected half-yearly, this is charged two times in a year, that is Re. 0-8-0 per rupee. In this circumstance, annas 3-6 per rupee eventually mean a local rate of annas 7 per rupee. However, there are places where the local rate is charged even more than annas 8 a rupee.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh : Will the Minister state whether the Government contemplates to standardise the local rates in all the districts ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

STARTING OF FIFTH SATANDARD IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF THE STATE

***1734. Shri Lajpat Rai** : Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the date when the fifth standard shall be started in all Primary Schools of the State ;

(b) the number of schools in the State where education up to the 4th standard is being imparted and where arrangements for starting the 5th are to be made ;

(c) the number of schools referred to in part (b) above district-wise and the increase in the number of teachers that shall take place in such schools ;

(d) the increase in yearly expenditure district-wise in the State that shall take place in view of the addition of the 5th standard in the Primary Schools ?

Shri Jagat Narain : (a) Provision has been made in the budget for adding fifth class to three hundred Primary Schools.

(b) 4,183.

(c) and (d) A statement is given below :—

STATEMENT

Ambala	.. 276
Gurgaon	.. 337
Hissar	.. 389

Karnal	..	277
Rohtak	..	388
Amritsar	..	435
Ferozepore	..	472
Gurdaspur	..	268
Hoshiarpur	..	394
Jullundur	..	355
Kangra	..	344
Ludhiana	..	298
Increase in the number of teachers	..	3,425

(d) Rs. 32,88,000 in the first year.

		Rs.	
Ambala	..	2,64,960	For the first year
Gurgaon	..	3,23,520	
Hissar	..	3,73,440	
Karnal	..	2,65,920	
Rohtak	..	3,24,480	
Amritsar	..	2,98,560	
Ferozepore	..	2,94,720	
Gurdaspur	..	2,55,360	
Hoshiarpur	..	3,02,400	
Jullundur	..	2,23,680	
Kangra	..	1,51,680	
Ludhiana	..	2,09,280	

GRADES OF TEACHERS

*1735. **Shri Lajpat Rai** : Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the present grades of pay of J.V. J.A.V. and S.A.V., trained teachers in the State and the reasons for the difference, if any, between the grades of pay of J.V. and J.A.V. Teachers ?

Shri Jagat Narain : The present grades of Teachers are as follows :—

		Rs.
J.V.	..	40—3—60/3—90/4—110
J.A.V.	..	70—5—90/5—100/5—150
S.A.V.	..	90—5—150

[Minister for Education]

The difference in J.V. and J.A.V. grades is due to the fact that J.V. Teachers teach Primary Classes and J.A.V. Teachers teach Middle Classes. J.A.V Teachers get training for two years after Matriculation and J.V. Teachers one year after the Middle Examination.

PLYING OF GOVERNMENT BUSES BETWEEN JULLUNDUR AND AMRITSAR

*1749. **Principal Iqbal Singh** : Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of Government buses plying between Jullundur and Amritsar ; together with the number of buses lying out of order at present ;

(b) the number of accidents and failures that occurred on the Jullundur-Amritsar route since the operation of the above buses ;

(c) the cost of carrying a passenger over a distance of one mile on the nationalized services in general and the Jullundur-Amritsar route in particular ;

(d) the number of persons on the running and other staff engaged in the administration and supervision of the Jullundur-Amritsar service ;

(e) the number of miles a new bus runs before it is condemned or before its engine or body is wholly over-hauled or changed ?

Shri Jagat Narain : The information asked for is given below:—

(a) The total number of buses plying on Jullundur-Amritsar route is 38. No bus is lying out of order.

(b) 24 accidents occurred on this route since operation. The total number of failures so far has been 448.

(c) About 5.2 pies on an average. It is almost the same for Jullundur-Amritsar route.

(d) Drivers	..	52
Conductors	..	52
Inspectors	..	9
Chief Inspector	..	1
Ministerial Staff	..	10
Workshop, etc.	..	40

(e) (i) No. of miles a new bus runs. 125,000 miles on an average before it is condemned.

(ii) Engine's life .. 40,000 miles (Approx.)

(iii) Life of a body .. 4 years (Approx.)

(Average life of a bus, engine or a body varies according to Make, Model and type of the body. Road conditions also play an important part in decreasing or increasing the life of a vehicle. The above figures are only approximate.)

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : As regards the rate of 5.2 pies per mile referred to by the hon. Minister in part (c) of the reply , may I know whether only the running charges were taken into account while arriving at this figure or the depreciation charges were also included ?

Minister : All the expenses have been included in it.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Does the cost referred to by the hon. Minister include the running charges only or it includes the depreciation too ?

Minister : That too has been taken into consideration.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : The bus-fare from Jullundur to Amritsar, a distance of about 52 miles, is Rs. 1-9-0. On what basis has it been fixed ?

Minister : The hon. Member can himself calculate it.

PAYMENT OF FEES BY PATIENTS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IN THE STATE

*1753. **Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit** : Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the patients in the private wards of Government Hospitals in the State pay fees to Doctors in those Hospitals ;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that this practice leads to neglect of poor patients in the General Ward ;

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the action Government proposes to take in the matter ?

Shri Jagat Narain : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR BOYS IN KANGRA DISTRICT

*1808. **Shri Kanhaya Lal Butail** : Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of Primary Schools for boys in Kangra District at present and the number of trained and untrained teachers, respectively, employed therein ;

(b) the number of the teachers among those referred to in part (a) above who are qualified to teach Hindi ;

[Shri Kanhaya Lal Butail]

(c) whether any normal school for training of such teachers was opened within the said district ; if so, when ?

Shri Jagat Narain : (a) No. of Primary Schools .. 348

Number of trained teachers .. 621

Number of untrained teachers .. 173

(b) 195.

(c) Mission Normal School .. From 1916 to 1920

Government Normal School .. From 1920 to 1932.

CHARGING OF SALES TAX ON FRUITS, VEGETABLES, ETC., IN THE STATE

***1784. Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any Sales Tax is charged on the sale of fruits, vegetables or the bag or crate containing vegetables or fruit ; if so, on what kinds of fruit or vegetables ;

(b) whether any Sales Tax is being charged on green chillies and cocoanut; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation or deputation of the Arhti Association, Sabzi Mandi, Jullundur, asking for exemption for the Arhties of the commodities referred to in part (b) above from the payment of Sales Tax in connection therewith ; if so, the action Government has taken in this connection ?

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : (a) (i) Sales Tax is not charged on fresh fruits ?

(ii) No Sales Tax is charged on vegetables except when sold in tins, bottles or cartons.

(iii) The containers of vegetables or fruit are liable to Sales Tax.

(b) (i) Sales Tax is charged on green chillies as these are not a 'vegetable' but 'spice' ;

(ii) the tax is charged on cocoanut as it is not a perishable fruit like other fresh fruits.

(c) Yes. A representation was received and it was rejected.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Is the Sales Tax charged from those persons also who dine at hotels ?

Shri Wadhawa Ram : Sales Tax is charged on the fruit sold in sealed tins but not on that which is sold unpacked and is covered by flies in the fruit-shops. May I know the cause of this distinction ?

Minister : Sales Tax is not charged on perishable fruit and vegetables.

Shrimati Sita Devi : It has been stated that the Sales Tax is charged on the green chillies because they are one of the spices. May I know whether green chilies are added to the spices or to the vegetables ?

Minister : Green chlllies are added to the spices also but the reason why the Sales Tax is charged on these is that these are not perishable.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN VILLAGES OF THE STATE

*1739. **Shri Babu Dayal** : Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government has under consideration any plan for constructing roads in the Villages of the State under the scheme of the Central Government providing one-third of expenditure for such roads ?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : Yes.

CONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGE ROADS IN THE STATE

*1740 **Shri Babu Dayal** : Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) the amount provided by the Government for constructing Village roads in Gurgaon District out of Rs. 29 crores meant for this purpose in the Five-Year Plan;

(b) the list of such roads to be constructed district-wise in the State?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (a) No provision out of 29 crores has been made by the Government of India in the Five-Year-Plan for the construction of Village roads.

(b) A scheme for the development of village roads has been drawn up by the State Government, which is to be financed equally by the Government of India, the villagers concerned and the State Government and work thereon is likely to commence shortly. A list showing the roads to be taken up under the Scheme in the first batch district-wise is given below.

[Minister for Public Works]

Statement showing the names of Roads to be taken up under the scheme of Village Road Development.

Name of District	Length	Name of Road	Amount of estimate
1. Ambala ..	1·16 mile	1. Village Bahita to Railway Station Kesr	7,700
	1·0 „	2. Village Bahrampur Zamindar to Rupar Panj Kula Road	7,030
	1·53 „	3. Village Kharwan to Jagadhri Chhachhrauli Road near Village Mondakhera	9,800
2. Rohtak ..	2·1 miles	1. Sisana to Silana ..	14,770
	4·18 „	2. Silana to Farmana ..	29,700
3. Hissar ..	2·0 „	1. Mayar Alipur Kharar Road	17,200
		2. Mirka Mangali Road ..	25,000
4. Ludhiana ..	6 „	1. Kumb Kalan to Katani Kalan via Bhaini Ala and Tadherwal	51,930
	2 „	2. Sudhar Collage to Main Road ..	13,550
	4 „	3. Chak to Dakha ..	34,650
5. Gurgaon ..	3·8 „	1. Village Mandram pur Bas to Palwal Sohna Rewari Road	25,200
6. Jullundur ..	3,900 Rft.	1. Village Wadala to Jullundur Nakodar Road	15,700
	1,830 „	2. Village Dhanowali to G. T. Road	5,800
	4,150 „	1. Village Bhoojowal to Jullundur-Hoshiarpur Road	16,780
			2,74,810

Shri Babu Dayal: When will this work commence ?

Minister : As already submitted by me, it will commence at a very early date.

Shri Babu Dayal : What is meant by the term 'early date' ?

Minister : By the term 'early date', I mean a very early date. It will commence within two months if not within a month.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : The hon. Minister said that a scheme had been prepared. Was he referring to the Community Projects or to some other scheme ?

Minister: I explained during the course of discussion on the Appropriation Bill that another scheme had been prepared and it was proposed to spend 2.75 crores of rupees on it. A part of this amount is to be paid by the Government of India, a part by the Punjab Govrnment and some amount has to be contributed by the villagers. This work is to be done in six districts.

EAST PUNJAB MINISTERS' SALARIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1953

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I introduce the East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 1953.

Chief Minister : Sir, I beg to move.

That the East Punjab Ministers Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, I would take very little time of the House. In the previous Act it was provided that—

> There shall be paid to the Chief Minister a salary at the rate of 24,000 rupees a year and to each of the Ministers a salary at the rate of 18,000 rupees a year, etc., etc.

According to that Act there is a disparity in the salary of Ministers and the Chief Minister which indicates that the Chief Minister gets Rs. 500 per mensem over and above what the Ministers get. We do not like to maintain this disparity in salaries. So we have separated the amount of Rs. 500 which the Chief Minister gets by way of sumptuary allowance. It has been remarked that outwardly the Ministers indulge in making a propaganda that they have accepted a salary of Rs. 1,000 per mensem but in the Bill their salary has been fixed at Rs. 1,500 per mensem. In this connection, I cannot help saying that if any person is bent upon taking a distorted view of anything nobody can prevent him from doing so. I may tell the hon. Members for their information that the Chief Minister, other Ministers, Speaker and the Chairman of the Council have agreed to accept a voluntary cut in their salary and in view of this cut there is no need for making any amendment in this Bill. We have only taken this step to make the sumptuary allowance of the Chief Minister as distinctly separate from his salary.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

> That the East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, it has been stated on behalf of the Government that this Bill seeks to remove the existing disparity in the salaries of Chief Minister and other Ministers. It is indeed commendable to make such a statement but in fact it appears that in spite of the fact that the Ministers have outwardly agreed to accept a reduced salary of Rs. 1,000 per mensem their salary has been fixed at Rs 1,500 per mensem in the Bill. This obviously causes misgivings in the mind of the members about the intentions of the Government. If it is so there will be no saving of public money. I think it is only a face saving device by the Government and in fact disparity is not sought to be removed by this Bill. It would now appear that after accepting a voluntary cut the Chief Minister will draw Rs. 1,000 per mensem as salary and Rs. 500 per mensem as sumptuary allowance, that is, Rs. 1,500 per mensem. It does not look proper that a provision of Rs. 500 as sumptuary allowance should have been made for the Chief Minister in addition to his salary because if the Chief Minister spends money on the entertainment of his guests the Ministers also have to incur similar expenditure by virtue of their office. I would say that the Ministers have rather to spend more on the entertainment of their guests than the Chief Minister.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member need not discuss these things.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Besides this, I think that the conveyance allowance of Rs. 300 per mensem is excessive and should be scaled down to Rs. 100 per mensem. The Ministers can get 33 gallons of petrol for Rs. 100 which are sufficient for them for making a journey of 600 miles per month instead of allowing them to use Government cars for making party propaganda. It is frequently observed that these cars are mainly used by persons other than the Ministers themselves.

Chief Minister : This question is not before the House. The cars have been provided to the ministers for the purpose of providing means of conveyance to them. It is not the question before the House as to who uses these cars.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Sir, what I wish to drive at is that the Ministers should be given Rs. 100 per mensem as conveyance allowance. I think that the Chief Minister has introduced this Bill merely to satisfy his whim otherwise it does not serve any public interest.

Chief Minister : I think that my hon. Friend has not been able to understand this Bill. No new provision has been incorporated in the Bill. It only seeks to make the sumptuary allowance of the Chief Minister as separate from his salary.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :—

That the East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (2)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker : Now Clause 2 is before the House for discussion. Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit and his colleagues have given notice of several amendments. Any one of them may move the amendments.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That in subsection (1) of proposed section 2, line 2, for the words 'fifteen hundred' the words 'five hundred' be substituted.

Sir, the financial position of our State is not at all heartening. We should try to make it financially strong and take steps to raise the standard of living of the people. I think it is putting a great strain on the meagre resources of the State to fix the salaries of the Ministers at Rs. 1,500 per mensem. If we look to other amenities which are enjoyed by them at Government expense viz., furnished bungalows, provision of water and electricity and in addition to this, conveyance allowance of Rs. 300 and give them Rs. 500 per mensem as salary it will in substance mean more than Rs. 1,000 per mensem. If the Government really feels that the economic position of the people is not satisfactory it should try to relieve the people of the burden of heavy taxation and take steps to ameliorate the lot of Harijans. But the Government is not taking any steps in this direction. During the course of the general discussion of the Budget some of the hon. Members sitting on the Government benches had remarked that the Government had raised the salaries of low paid employees by cutting down the salaries of big officers. I think that the Ministers themselves should set an example by curtailing their own salaries. That would create a feeling of confidence among the people that the Governor

ment is in earnest to remove the glaring disparity which at present exists in the salaries of the high-paid and the low-paid. Sir, if we take into account all the amenities which are enjoyed by the Ministers at Government expense we will find that the salary of Ministers is in fact not less than Rs. 3,000 per mensem. Even if the Government accept my amendment their salary would not be less than Rs. 2,000 per mensem. I think that by accepting the salary proposed by me they should set an example before the public that they really want to raise the salaries of the low-paid officials by cutting down the salaries of high officers. With these words, Sir, I request the Government to accept my amendment.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That in subsection (1) of proposed section 2, line 2, for the words "fifteen hundred" the words "five hundred," be substituted.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina, (Ajnala) : Sir, I beg to move—

That in subsection (1) of proposed section 2, lines 3—6, the words " and to the Chief Minister ....rupees per mensem" be deleted.

That in subsection (2) of proposed subsection 2, line 4, between the words "Government and sign" ; the words "and shall not exceed one hundred rupees per mensem" be inserted.

That in subsection (2) of proposed section 2, line 6, for the words "three hundred" the words "one hundred" be substituted.

The object of my first amendment is just to delete the provision made for the grant of a sumptuary allowance to the Chief Minister. Public Exchequer of this poor country cannot afford to spend a sum of Rs. 500 over the entertainment of the guests of the hon. Chief Minister. He should meet such expenses from his salary.

According to the second amendment the maintenance charges of a Minister's bungalow should not exceed Rs. 100 per mensem.

The purport of my third amendment is to fix the maximum limit of the monthly rent of a house at Rs. 100. Already, the Government has to spend a large sum of money on each Minister.

Mr. Speaker : Motions moved—

That in subsection (1) of proposed section 2, lines 3—6, the words " and to the Chief Minister......rupees per mensem" be deleted.

That in subsection (2) of proposed subsection 2, line 4, between the words "Government and sign" ; the words "and shall not exceed one hundred rupees per mensem" be inserted.

That in subsection (2) of proposed section 2, line 6, for the words "three hundred" the words "one hundred" be substituted.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I am sorry to admit that I should not have brought this Bill before the House. It seeks to import nothing new into the Ministers' Salaries Act. All that it seeks to do is to change the form of one of its sections. I wonder what was the occasion for a debate and moving amendments. This means that in future we should make no effort to have even the form of an enactment changed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in subsection (1) of proposed section 2, line 2, for the words "fifteen hundred" the words "five hundred" be substituted.

The Assembly then divided.

Ayes : 14

Noes : 62.

The motion was declared lost.

AYES (Total No. 14)

1. Achhar Singh, Chhina, Sardar
2. Bachan Singh, Sardar
3. Bhag Singh, Sardar (Kot-Bhai)
4. Chanan Singh, Sardar
5. Darshan Singh, Sardar
6. Gopal Singh, Sardar
7. Harkishan Singh, Sardar
8. Iqbal Singh, Principal
9. Kartar Singh, Sardar
10. Maru Singh Malik, Chaudhri
11. Naurang Singh, Sardar
12. Nidhan Singh, Sardar
13. Partap Singh, Master
14. Wadhawa Ram, Shri

NOES (Total No. 62.)

1. Abdul Ghani Dar, Shri
2. Abhai Singh, Shri
3. Babu Dyal , Shri
4. Baloo Ram, Shri
5. Balwant Rai Tayal, Shri
6. Benarsi Dass Gupta, Mahashe
7. Bishna Ram, Shri
8. Bhim Sen Sachar, Shri
9. Dalbir Singh Gohar, Shri
10. Darbara Singh, Sardar
11. Daulat Ram, Shri
12. Daulat Ram Sharma, Shri
13. D. D. Puri, Shri
14. Dev Raj Anand, Shri
15. Dev Raj Sethi, Shri
16. Dharam Vir Vasisht, Shri
17. Gajraj Singh, Rao
18. Ganga Ram, Shri
19. Gopi Chand, Shri
20. Gorakh Nath, Shri
21. Goran Dass Hans, Bhagat
22. Gurbachan Singh Attwal, Sardar
23. Gurbanta Singh, Master
24. Gurdial Singh, Sardar
25. Gurdial Singh Dhillon, Sardar
26. Harbhajan Singh, Principal
27. Hari Ram, Shri
28. Harnam Singh Sethi, Shri
29. Jagat Ram Bhardwaj, Shri
30. Jagdish Chand, Shri
31. Jagdish Chandra, Shri
32. Kanhaya Lal Butail, Shri
33. Kasturi Lal Goel, Shri
34. Khem Singh, Sardar

35. Kidar Nath Saigal, Shri
36. Mam Chand, Shri
37. Mam Raj, Shri
38. Mohan Singh Jathedar, Sardar
39. Nand Lal, Shri
40. Nanhu Ram, Shri
41. Narinjan Dass Dhiman, Shri
42. Parkash Kaur, Shrimati
43. Partap Singh, Bakhshi
44. Partap Singh Kairon, Sardar
45. Prabodh Chandra, Shri
46. Raghuvir Singh, Rai
47. Rala Ram, Shri
48. Ram Kishan, Shri
49. Ram Kumar Bidhat, Shri
50. Ram Sarup, Shri
51. Rizaq Ram, Shri
52. Sadhu Ram, Shri
53. Samar Singh, Shri
54. Sarup Singh, Shri
55. Sher Singh, Shri
56. Sita Devi, Shrimati
57. Siri Ram Sharma, Shri
58. Sohan Singh, Sardar
59. Sundar Singh, Shri
60. Teg Ram, Shri
61. Uttam Singh, Sardar
62. Waryam Singh, Sardar (Amritsar)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in subsection (1) of proposed section 2, lines 3—6, the words " and to the Chief Minister......rupees per mensem" be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in subsection (2) of proposed subsection 2, line 4, between the words "Government and sign" ; the words "and shall not exceed one hundred rupees per mensem" be inserted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in subsection (2) of proposed section 2, line 6, for the words "three hundred" the words "one hundred" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-Clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be passed.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, our hon. Chief Minister has stated during the course of his speech that there already exists an Act with regard to the salaries of the Ministers and the amendment that is now sought to be made through this bill, does not make any fundamental change in the already existing Act. I say that this Act has not been imported from America or some other country.

Chief Minister : It has been imported from Russia. (*Laughter*).

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : What I mean to say is that the Ministers' Salaries Act was passed by this very Assembly and this Assembly can also amend it. It is not necessary that in this bill, the salary of the Ministers should be fixed at Rs. 1,500 per mensem. Besides, when the hon. Finance Minister has clearly declared in his Budget Speech that the salary of the Ministers is being reduced to Rs. 1,000 per mensem, then there appears to be no reason why that announcement should not be given a practical shape through this very amending bill, and the salary should not be fixed at Rs. 1,000 instead of Rs. 1,500 per mensem. I think that, in view of that declaration it does not behove the hon. Ministers to fix their salaries at Rs. 1,500 per mensem permanently through this bill and thus impose a legal restriction on accepting less. I say, if they think that ours is a poor State and the expenditure should be reduced, they should agree to get smaller salaries. We, however, want that they should get Rs. 500 as their monthly salary about which they themselves have been making declarations since so long. But the amazing thing is that our Ministers make only declarations but do not act on them.

Then it has been tried to justify the difference of Rs. 500 between the salary of the hon. Chief Minister and that of the Ministers by calling it Sumptuary Allowance. Only the other day, the hon. Chief Minister himself disclosed that Rs. 14,500 had been spent to furnish his bungalow. The matter does not stop there. The maintenance charges in respect of the houses of the Minister are also paid by the Government Besides

this, every Minister has been supplied a Government car worth Rs. 18,500. I think the expense of the driver which comes to about Rs. 200 per mensem, is also borne by the State. Then every Minister spends Rs. 30 to 50 every day on petrol. They have themselves disclosed these figures while replying to questions.

It would be better if they reduce their expenses. But they are asking for rupees three hundred more. They charge travelling allowance if they travel by train. (*An hon. Member* : *Where did you read that* ?) In addition to this they get D.A. They say that they are poor. Anyhow it is not difficult to know what they get all told. The people of the Punjab cannot get enough to eat and are dying of starvation but the Ministers are continually increasing their salaries. On the one side our low-paid officials get only twenty rupees a month but on the other huge amounts are being spent by the representatives of the people. How can they persuade the high officers to accept less when they are getting such fat salaries themselves ? This act is not at all calculated to bring about any decrease in the high salaries and reduce the burden on the State exchequer. No attempt is made even to reduce the number of Ministers. What is more, there is every likelihood of appointment of Deputy Ministers if any unrest makes its appearance in the party.

Sardar Nidhan Singh (Mehna) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, a dying person when asked whether he would like to go to hell or heaven, replied that he would prefer the more profitable place. This is exactly the case with our Ministers. In this amputated and divided Punjab the average income per head is rupees sixty-five only per year but our Ministers, unmindful of this fact, are never satisfied and are continually increasing their salaries. If they have any respect for the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, they should reduce their salaries. They should try to lessen the burden at the top of this administration. If this administration continues to be top-heavy there is danger of its falling down. I would request them that they should take some pity on the poor people. In Fazilka I have seen that the people are in a very bad condition. The country can progress only if the salaries of the Ministers are decreased and those of the low-paid officials increased. In the end I again request that the Ministers should take pity on the people as they are at their mercy.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*) :,Sir, it has been pointed out that this Bill has been brought forth to distinguish between the Ministers lest they should fall out with each other. (*Laughter*). It has been said that an additional sum of five hundred rupees was being given to the Chief Minister for entertaining guests. I submit that the days of the princes have gone and the State cannot afford these entertaintments and luxuries. There is now no need of these so called "Lassi-Khanas". People are poor and their money cannot be wasted on these things. However, if the Ministers are fond of entertaining their guests, they should do so at their own cost. Why should they not spend out of their salary of Rs. 1,500 for these purposes ? Should this be the work of ideal Ministers who are proud of calling themselves faithful followers of Mahatma Gandhi ? Though they are sitting beneath his picture today, yet they are far from his principles. They are unaware of the fact that people in Kangra who beat stones and break the rocks are unable to earn even twenty rupees a month. The people of the Punjab will be satisfied only when the salaries of the Ministers and other high officers are reduced. If they have any sense of propriety, they should accept a salary of rupees five hundred a month. This is not what we propose; this was their own proposal. They used to lay a very great stress on it to please Mahatma Gandhi. They should now emulate the example of the Himachal Pradesh.

[Shri Wadhawa Ram]
The Ministers of this State live at Simla but get a salary of rupees five hundred only. Are they not in a position to pull on with this salary and do people dislike them for that ? In these circumstances, I submit that our Ministers should try to understand the situation themselves and reduce their salaries.

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, it is just a month ago that the Budget was passed by the hon. Members of this House. All sorts of things were said during the discussion of the Budget I think things have not very much changed during one month and there was no need of all that has been said today. The object of this Bill is simply to remove the misunderstanding that arises owing to the seeming difference in the salaries of the Ministers and the Chief Minister. An additional sum of rupees five hundred a month is being provided for the Chief Minister and this is badly needed. The Chief Minister requires it for entertaining the guests. He has to entertain Patwaris, Ambassadors and Ministers from other countries, and Speakers and other important persons of other States. These entertainments are provided not by Shri Bhim Sen Sachar as such but as the Chief Minister of our State. It is only in the fitness of things that the Chief Minister should entertain the guests. Such an arrangement exists in other States and there is no reason why it should not exist here.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to state it again that the Ministers at present draw only Rs. 1,000 per mensem as their salary and they would continue to draw the same amount even after the 1st of April. We are not making any change in their salaries. Objection has been raised that the Congress Workers had given promises so many times that the Ministers would not be allowed to draw more than Rs. 500 a month as their pay. In this connection I would like to submit that the hon. Members who have referred to the promises made by the Congress Party in 1930 have forgotten that wheat used to sell at Re. 1-4-0 per maund at that time. If they compare that time with the present one they would come to know that the value of a rupee has decreased to 1/5th of what it was in the past. Five hundred rupees of those days are equal to twenty five hundred rupees of today. The index number of one hundred rupees of the year 1939 has risen to 375. Keeping in view the soaring prices of the necessities of life, our salaries should have been much more than what we draw at present. (*Interruptions*). What I mean to sumbmit is, Sir, that when compared with the increase in prices our salaries are much less. True, India is a country of meagre resources. Even then the wages of labourers have increased four times. But I am not satisfied with that. I would, however, like to state that the first step taken by the present Government was that it made an increase of Rs. 5 in the salary of every Government servant who used to draw less then Rs. 100 per mensem as his pay. And, even now it has provided an amount of the order of Rs. 55 lakhs in order to afford relief to the Government servants who draw less than Rs. 50 per mensem as their pay. I am in entire agreement with the suggestion that their salaries should be further increased but that suggestion has no concern with the present Bill.

Then, Sir, objections have also been raised in connection with the Travelling Allowance at present allowed to the Ministers of this State. My hon. Friends , perhaps, do not know that neither do we get advance money for the purchase of cars nor do we charge Re 0-12-0 per mile as our Travelling Allowance. We only charge the maintenance allowance of a driver and the price of petrol.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit : Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that they are provided with a car, a driver and the expenditure incurred on petrol they are not satisfied as yet. I would request that they may be given as many facilities as they want.

Minister for Finance: Sir, by explaining these facts I only want to shake my hon. Friends off their slumber that has overtaken them and thus want to remove their misunderstanding under which they have so far been labouring. What I want to impress upon the hon. Members is that we are obliged to adopt these measures because they help us save Government money. Government has to bear extra burden of expenditure if we draw Rs. 300 per mensem and also Re.0-12-0 per mile as Travelling Allowance. It would not be out of place to mention here that the Government has fixed a limit of Rs. 1,000 per annum for every Minister on account of free consumption of electricity and water and nobody would be allowed to draw money for these purposes beyond that limit. In the end I would like to submit that it is no use repeating the same points over and over again. As a matter of fact, the present Bill should have been passed without any discussion.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB URBAN IMMOVABLE PROPERTY TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

Minister for Labour (Chaudhri Sundar Singh (**Punjabi**): Sir, I introduce the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1953.

Minister for Labour : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker, before the hon. Members start discussion on this subject I would like to make a few observations in this regard. According to the existing law, any person, the aggregate annual income of whose properties exceeds the taxable limits (*viz* Rs. 300 in the rating area of Simla and Rs. 240 in other rating areas), is liable to pay tax on such properties after certain deductions admissible under Section 5 of the Act. In this way any person owning property in a rating area, the net annual income of which is Rs. 300 in the case of Simla and Rs. 240 in the case of others is exempt from the tax whereas a person owning property the net annual income of which is just above these taxable limits is liable to pay the tax on the full rental value of his properties. With a view to avoiding this anomaly Government wants to perpetuate the concession extended on the 1st April, 1940, by enacting it into a law. Ordinarily, a person the aggregate income of whose properties is Rs. 250 has to pay Rs. 25 as tax thus reducing his income to Rs. 225 even less than the taxable limit. Mr. Speaker, to avoid this irregularity the proposed legislative measure is introduced and as it aims to do good to the people, I request that it should be passed without any further delay.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be taken into consideration at once.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, in regard to the Punjab Urban Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill, 1953, I would like to submit that it would have been better if the taxable limit were increased up to Rs. 500. So far as the proposed amendment is concerned, I do not see eye to eye with the Minister for Labour. Sir, as I am afraid that the Government is not

[Shri Wadhawa Ram]
likely to accept my suggestion I would request that some hon. Member of the Congress Party may be asked to move it. I am sure that the Minister for Labour is in full sympathy with the poor people and trust that he will gladly accept this suggestion. If, however, this suggestion is not accepeted I would be obliged to conclude that the Act aims to benefit the rich and not the poor.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be taken into consideration at once

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now, the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Labour : Sir, I move—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB NURSES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) : Sir, I introduce the Punjab Nurses Registration (Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Development : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Nurses Registration (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Nurses Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Nurses Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1953, be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

CLAUSE 5

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 6

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 7

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 8

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 9

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 9 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 10

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 10 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

CLAUSE 11

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 11 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 12

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 12 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

CLAUSE 13

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

CLAUSE 14

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 14 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 15

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 15 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 16

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 16 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 17

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 17 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 18

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 18 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) : **Sir,** I beg to move—

That the Punjab Nurses Registration (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker, everything had to be partitioned after the partition of the country and as a result it became necessary to effect some amendments in this measure also. Now three main amendments were put forward and the House has accepted all of them. Thus I do not think I need say anything more than this that the bill may be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Nurses Registration (Amendment) Bill, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Nurses Registration (Amendment) Bill, be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB SECURITY OF THE STATE BILL

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Security of the State Bill, 1953, as passed by the Panjab Legislative Council be taken into consideration.

Sir, the necessity to introduce this Bill has been felt owing to the reason that the President's Act will expire and cease to operate on the 17th April, 1953. It goes without saying that if it is not replaced by a new piece of legislation, there is every likelihood that unarmed with the appropriate authority and power, the government may not be in a position to exercise its control and maintain public order in case a situation prejudicial to the security of the State, emerges. Obviously, if such a state of affairs is allowed to exist uncurbed it may spread chaos and disorder in the State. I can, of course, presume that you will expect of me to explain the causes that led the government to continue the existing Act. As a matter of fact, Sir, there is absolutely no justification in bringing any piece of legislation on the Statute Book unless there are cogent reasons to believe that a situation has arisen which calls for its enactment. Naturally, then, what is the necessity which has forced me to introduce this Bill. This is what I, with your permission Sir, would like to bring home to the hon. Members of this august House.

Mr. Speaker, after the attainment of freedom everybody in the country can feel himself to be completely unrestricted of any super control. He can interpret the meaning of independence to his own fancy. He might think that there could not or should not be any outside restriction on his speech, writings, movements, and other such activities. Sir, the constitution of our country can be favourably compared to that of any democratic country of the world and we can raise our head high in pride. Its outsatanding characteristic is that it provides, equal opportunities to everybody irrespective of caste or creed. It is, therefore, necessary that in order to accomplish the cherished objects, co-operative efforts should be made in all the spheres of our activities. What is then the fundamental basis of co-operative efforts ? It is that everybody should be free to express his feelings and hold consultations with one another so that he may contribute his share with a view to taking the country forward on the road to progress. In other words, it means that the task which is contemplated to be undertaken, the object which is proposed to be achieved , can be accomplished only through joint efforts and the opinion of majority. The isolated individual endeavours cannot achieve this object. It is an admitted fact that only the opinion which is acceptable to the majority prevails in a particular deal. On the contrary the views held by the different people which are diametrically opposed to one another carry no weight. Now the question is as to how to win over a man to ones own point of view ? The method recognised by our Constitution and adopted by the Party which is

at the helm of affairs at the Centre, as well as, in our State is to further its programme and ideology through peaceful methods, constitutional means and the rule of law. As a result of the fundamental Principles embodied in the Constitution, general elections on the basis of adult franchise would be conducted after every five years in the country. In this way, after the lapse of every five years, the electorate will have to adjudge whether the government which was holding the reins of administration for the last five years, undertook such works which were directed towards the welfare and uplift of the downtrodden people ? It is only on the strength of its achievements that the party once in power will be in a position to continue its hold over the votes of the people in future. So, what I mean to say is that constitutionally the Members of the Opposition have been left with no other alternative but to go to the people and say that the government in office has failed to solve the intricate problems of food, clothing, housing, education and so on and ultimately urge them not to vote for it again. In case, the people are convinced that the previous Government had miserably failed to discharge its functions earnestly and to their satisfaction, they would give a chance to the opposition parties. In this way, Sir, this system calls neither for shooting any bullets nor damaging telegraph, electric and railway lines, nor does it permit administering poison to anybody. This is such a supreme and harmless system that it does not leave any scope for open armed conflicts between the antagonistic groups. Neither does it give latitude to anybody to distort and mis-represent the facts because as the masses will be intelligent enough to adjudge as to what the Government achieved during the term of its office in the various fields. But, Sir, there are people who tell us that the methods which we believe in do not serve their ends. They would say that they might be suitable for us but not for them. They would like to follow the method advocated by their masters and to carry out the mandate of the people who imparted them training and to whom they owe their allegiance. After all what is that method of theirs ? It is this that not only the people who manage the affairs should be shot to death but the very system of the Government should be dislocated. Then, Sir, what methods do they adopt with a view to destroying the whole system ? They spread chaos, confusion and anarchy in the State. They are always bent upon creating such a complicated situation as may create suspicion and restlessness in the minds of the people with the result that disorder and anarchy prevails in the country.

Sir, as a matter of fact, I do not wish to take much time of the House in dilating on this point but at the same time I cannot help saying that so far as Punjab is concerned, we would not allow such a situation to be precipitated in our State. Will, during the course of the next general elections, these people tend to mislead the people by saying that the Government wasted the public money on the construction of Bhakra Dam ? Will they assert that the Harike Project has very wrecklessly been extended ? Will they maintain that the drainage work has not been properly conducted ? Will they convince the people that the public efforts did not accomplish fruitful results in constructing an embankment at Narot Jaimal Singh ? Will they say that the example of excavating seventeen miles long and twenty-four feet wide channel, despite opposition from so many quarters, through self-help and without the investment of a single penny, not encouraging ? Will they argue that the consolidation of holding operations, which the present Government is carrying on at full speed, were prejudicial to the interests of the peasants and the tillers of the land ? Of course, there is, at present, a shortage of food in the Kangra District But this scarcity arose owing to the failure of the timely rains. Any way,

[Chief Minister]

I would like to inform the House that the Punjab Government have made all the arrangements in order to meet the shortage. For this purpose telegraphic instructions have been issued to the authorities concerned. In these circumstances, how will they misrepresent the facts and mislead the people ? Will they allege that the people getting as much as five thousands rupees a month as their salaries did not undertake any substantial work for the uplift of the people ? If they are not to adopt such tactics on such an occasion, what else they will do ? This is what I am going to reveal to you.

I shall state what actually happens. As one must be very cautious in such matters I have got written notes with me from which I wish to read out a few extracts. This will enable the hon. Members to understand why this Bill is necessary. I wish to make it clear that the provisions contained in this Bill do not exist in any other law. If such provisions already existed, there was no need for bringing forward this measure. In the absence of any law to cope with the situation created by these happenings, it has been found necessary to place this Bill on the Statute Book. Now I read out an extract to this House.

> There are so many people, working in an organised manner to spread seeds of violence, create lawlessness and to overthrow lawful authority by violent means. They carry out their designs in a secret way. Some of them even seek aid from foreign countries.

Here I would like to mention some of the methods which they adopt to carry out their unlawful activities :

> Creation of a spirit amongst the masses to take the law into their own hands and to secure their ends by violent acts. People in the villages have been misled and incited in this way, by speeches and door to door propaganda.

This has resulted in a large number of actual acts of violence and violent disputes througout the State between landlords and tenants. Since 1st April, 1952 no less than 58 cases were registered under the Indian Penal Code and in about 30 cases the police had to take action under section 107/51 Criminal Procedure Code. All these were the results of insidious incitement by these persons.

Similarly they have incited labour workers to violence. Such incitements led to 32 strikes in industrial concerns since 1st April, 1952 and in 3 of which actual violence was used.

I may here point out that I am not opposed to srtrikes as such. But I am talking of strikes which are managed by violent methods and for violent purposes.

These persons are also engaged in preparing to overthrow Government by armed means. They have collected arms by illicit methods, have organised and trained batches of their supporters in guerillas warfare, have made plans for armed assaults on officials and Government strong-holds. These insidious and dangerous moves have gone on for some time.

They have planned to paralyse Government by sabotaging the working of vital services, like the Railway, Posts and Telegraphs.

There are some other organised sections of the people who believe in violence and violent methods. A movement was started in Jummu against the Jummu and Kashmir Government. It was allegedly non-violent but in fact it was a seriously violent one. So far over 50 serious incidents of violence have been committed by the agitators in Jummu. Over 107 Police Officers and men have been injured, many of them seriously. More than a dozen assaults on Government institutions have been made damaging them badly. This movement endangers the very security of India and is a source of deep concern to us. This violent movement is being supported and fanned by people in this State. They constantly hold secret meetings to collect funds and volunteers to infuse new life into the agitation. They secretly publish pamphlets, posters, etc. and distribute them with the same object.

Activities of this nature, if not controlled in time, would produce disastrous results and the economy of the State would be shattered. It, is, therefore, the first and fundamental duty of the Government to curb and control activities of such nature which uphold and support a serious violent movement. That is why the Government has come forward with this Bill so that it can curb the nefarious activities of undesirable elements and effectively maintain law and order in the State.

With your permission, Sir, I, want to quote the contents of some speeches made by certain persons, which will show how much virulent propaganda is being carried on with a view to creating chaos and confusion in the State:

In a secret meeting held in November, 1952, the Organiser said:

> "An armed revolution was necessary to overthrow Government. Fools think Government can be overthrown by votes. Organise guerillas. Subvert Army and Police."

Then in another meeting held in October, 1952, the principal Speakers said:—

> "We have not given up the path of violent revolution. Firearms have been procured which will be distributed for action at opportune time. Trusted workers are to be trained in use of firearms and as guerillas. Create secret agents in Military and Police to subvert their loyalty.

The delegates who attended the Peace Council meeting explained how the peace resolution were to be implemented with full vigour by steady communist work. They said,

> Infact everybody. Congress are war-mongers. China and Russia are your real helpers. Wreck the Community Projects. Actively neutralise the wrok done by Government. Boycott foreign goods. Create a wave of resentment, work under cover of Peace. Say you have nothing common with the Communists Obtain signatures and give your pamphlets and booklets. You must work under Art shows. Painting exhibitions. Dramas and Poetical Symposiums. Carry out these directions with full support. All aids, facilities petrol arms will be provided by us. Contact your group key number for aid and further detailed orders in your locality . . . . We have nothing to do with this stupid creed of non-voilence Wreck community projects. Loosen nuts and bolts. Steal plugs and essential parts. Throw petrol on tractors. Rip open tyres with knives. Violence must be met with violence. The time is near when gureilla warfare must be adopted. Train in bands of 200. Declare that you will shoot British and Americans in India. Arms will be provided within the next 6 months. Become fearless. Deny openly that you have anything to do with communism. Create influence and spread-terror. Beat up Sub-Inspectors and Police in the villages. Ridicule them. We will soon launch a no-tax campaign. Get ready. Have full faith in the might and the ultimate victory of the red armies. Make things hot and difficult for the Nehru *Sarkar*. Go on collecting signatures. The masses will be helped by Chinese communists through Nepal border. Every move must be carried out according to definite plans and orders from above. Do nothing violent yet. After six months things will take a Red turn.

[Chief Minister]

In another meeting held in July 1952 four speakers who attended said:

(i) Organise guerillas with a view to violent action, (ii) success can only be achieved by armed struggle, (iii) prepare people for armed revolution , (iv) urge people to offer forcible resistance to Police in discharge of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I have placed these facts before the House so that hon. Members may know that there is justification for passing this measure. All things cannot be disclosed as some are confidential. I have referred to only a few happenings by way of illustration. When forces are at work in this State whose members owe loyalty not to India but to another country and who think that if violence in another State affects this State it must be committed there and funds should be raised for helping such a movement and embarassing the people so that the whole order may be upset, nobody can say that measures of this nature should not be passed by us only because we have a democratic constitution and believe in democracy. I beg to submit that it is our duty and it would be in the fitness of things that we should place a check on persons who want to do harm to the country by their violent activities.

We will have to change the mental outlook of such people. Sir, if any forces try to take law into their own hands ; if any forces want to disturb the condition of law and order in the State ; if any forces want to strain our international relations with other countries; if any forces put unwholesome influence on our morality and decency then I would say that no government would be worth the name if it remains as a silent spectator. People who have no faith in the democratic ideals and believe in dictatorship only cannot say that it is not a useful measure. If the Government do not accord good treatment to the law-abiding citizens then everybody has a right to criticise the Government. But do they want that the government should remain indifferent if any persons carry on a mad race of plundering, killing and creating riots. Sir, I have in my possession some documents on the basis of which I can say that there are some persons in the State who want to endanger public peace and order by their secret activities. But you know, that we have no faith in such conceptions. Our revered leader Mahatama Gandhi never taught us to do things secretly. Still we are giving a long rope to such back-door-cliques who are engaged in undesirable activities. This law is for those who do not believe in the doctrine of non-violence or rule of law but have faith in the rule of force.

This measure is of a preventive nature and we want that we should stop the water from the fountain head so that it may not at any time rise to a dangerous point and thus cause havoc. A provision has been made in the Bill that the person who is effected can make a representation which would be dealt with by the Advisory Council constituted for this purpose. This Advisory Council will consist of two members and one chairman who will be persons of the rank of High Court Judges, who have already worked as such or possess the requisite qualifications to be appointed as Judges of the High Court. But it is a pity that our friends have no reliance even on the integrity of the Judges of the High Court and they do not even approve of judicial system. They must know that the very life of the democratic Government depends upon judicial integrity and judicial independence. Under these circumstances, I have to appeal to the House that as the term of the previous Act expires on the 17th April, 1953 it should give necessary powers to the Government to deal effectively with such forces which may raise its ugly head to disturb the condition of law and order in the State. We want to stop the people from pursuing a wrong course but there are many people who in spite

of our appeals still believe in the doctrine of violence and think as n the government is non-existent. I may frankly tell them that the government is fully conscious of its obligations and would not tolerate undesirable activities of such people. I am sure that every sensible person will lend his full co-operation to the government and thereby strengthen its hands to deal firmly with such people. Sir, you are one of those people whom I may describe as newspaper worm if this word be not unparliamentary. You are an enthusiastic reader who would wait impatiently for the arrival of the morning paper. Unless you read a newspaper you feel out of sorts like a person who is an habitual tea drinker but fails to get a cup of tea in the morning. You know how irresponsible writings are published in the newspapers. These people do not hesitate to spoil the atmosphere of the State by their irresponsible utterances and writings. We have heavy responsibility on our shoulders as our State is a border State. Sir, I need not tell you with how many people we have to deal with daily on the borders. Our geographical position is such that we have so many boundaries in our country. Firstly, we have Pakistan boundary, secondly, Kashmir boundary and thirdly Himachal Pradesh boundary. But what we find is that our friends' actions are unchained and uncontrolled and they work in one unit. We have, therefore, to be on our guard from these people. You would have noticed, Sir, that in reply to a question it was stated that the government had to confiscate many unlicensed arms in the border districts. You may, Sir, conjecture that these people are making propaganda in the border State that they will create Talangana in Punjab. I may tell them that their dreams will not be realised. The *Punjabis* do not believe in violence and want to live peacefully. I have full support of these people and can say emphatically that the people of Punjab would never allow such people who constantly harp on violence to continue their nefarious activities. They try to create panic among the people by spreading false rumours.

Now, Sir, I may cite an example of the manner in which, these hon. Friends carried on propaganda against us during their electioneering campaign in connection with the bye-election held in Kangra District and you will, I am sure, be astonished to hear it. It is a matter of common knowledge that when Bhakra Dam will be completed water will go rushing to the arid and parched lands and convert them soon into smiling fields and pastures. Electric power that this scheme will put at our disposal will be about 4 lakhs killowats and then there will hardly be a village in the Punjab, not to speak of towns, which will not benefit from it. An era of prosperity will dawn in our State after the completion of this Project. Sir, you can never imagine the picture of this scheme that was painted by some friends . Simple, unsuspecting people were asked of what use will that water be to you from which electric energy has already been extracted ? (*Laughter*) . Sir, it is a fact that this statement was actually made by a responsible person who considers himself to be a great orator. Now I cannot at this moment give you a detailed account of what kind of propaganda was carried on by those friends. Take another example. They were asking people : How will the foodgrain reach you when there are no roads ? Simple rural folk ! After all, how can they be blamed for swallowing all sorts of mischievious statements, when they have had no experience of this new type of public worker ? So far, they have had experience of public workers like Congressmen and since they knew that they came to sympathise with them, were suffering and rotting in Jails for their sake and did not hesitate to undergo death sentence for the sake of the country's freedom, they listened to them and trusted them. They look upon every public worker in the light of that experience. They little realize that now those workers have also started approaching them who were responsible for sending

[Chief Minister]
patriots fighting the freedom battle to the gallows and who were carrying on the work of their party when we were clapped into prisons. Simple, gullible as the masses in general are, they take such workers at their words and repose faith in them. Sir, it is our country alone which is feeding even its avowed enemies—I mean persons who are in the habit of asking ?

कहो मैं सच बोलिया, या मैं झूठ बोलिया ।
ਕਹੋ ਮੈਂ ਸਚ ਬੋਲਿਆ, ਯਾਂ ਮੈਂ ਝੂਠ ਬੋਲਿਆ ।

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Security of the State Bill, 1953, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker : The following amendment given notice of by Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut will be deemed to have been moved. It will be discussed along with the main motion.

That the Punjab Security of the State Bill, 1953, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar, Chief Minister,
Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, Minister for Development,
Chaudhri Sri Chand, M.L.A.,
Sardar Wazir Singh, M.L.A.,
Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina, M.L.A.,
Shri Kedar Nath Saigal, M.L.A.,
Rao Gajraj Singh, M.L.A.,
Jathedar Mohan Singh, M.L.A.,
Professor Mota Singh, M.L.A.,

with instructions to report before the 8th July, 1953.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, it is a momentous occasion for the newly-elected Assembly of the Punjab. This Assembly has not been constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935 but under the new Constitution of India which we were allowed to frame for ourselves after a hard and continuous struggle of fifty to sixty years. Today, such a Bill has been brought before this House which if passed would nullify each and every fundamental right guaranteed to every citizen of this free country in the Constitution. There are the same rights for which our hon. Friends on the Ministerial Benches have also made sacrifices of no mean order. These friends were never tired of saying that after the advent of independence people would enjoy complete freedom of speech and expression and of association and organization and so on and so forth and that all would be asked to join in a common endeavour to reconstruct the country in a splendid manner. To secure these invaluable rights, so many of our colleagues and comrades among whom quite a few are today occupying the Ministerial Benches had to waste the best part of their lives in Jails of the British Government. They suffered and sacrificed so that their countrymen may be able to live like respectable citizens in full enjoyment of civil liberties.

May I in all seriousness appeal to my Congressite friends to consider the various provisions of this Bill carefully and point out to me in what respects it is better than the notorious Rowlatt Act—Rowlatt Act, against which the whole of the Punjab had risen as one man, against which Mahatma Gandhi had given the nation a clarion call, against which, Mr. Speaker, you had led the people of this State, protesting against which countless countrymen

of ours laid down their lives in Jallianwala Bagh and to suppress the rising tide of agitation against which O'Dwyer and Dyer perpetrated brutal atrocities on our people ? What did that Act contain ? Only this ; that anybody could be put behind the prison bars, if the officers suspected him of being a danger to the security of the State. Only this ; that a person could be detained on the strength of secret documents. This Act does not stop here; it contains other provisions which were not there. Sir, excuse me for a moment. I just want to remind the hon. Members of those days when we were carrying on an agitation against the enactment of the Rowlatt Act. Let me refresh their memory and recall to their minds the wording of the 'Pran Patra' prepared by Mahatmaji on that occasion. These are the words of that great personality of whom our hon. Chief Minister professes to be a true follower.

> "Being conscientiously of opinion that the Bill known as the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Bill (No. 1 of 1919) and the Criminal Law Emergency Powers Bill (No. 2 of 1919) are unjust, subversive of the principles of liberty and justice and destructive of the elementary rights of an individual on which the safety of India as a whole and the State itself is based, we solemnly affirm that in the event of these Bills becoming law and until they are withdrawn we shall refuse civilly to obey these laws and such other laws as the Committee, hereafter to be appointed, may think fit and we further affirm that in the struggle we will faithfully follow truth and refrain from violence to life, person or property."

> I have been accused of throwing a lighted match. If my occasional resistance be a lighted match, the Rowlatt Legislation and the persistence in retaining it on the Statute Book is a thousand matches scattered throughout India. The only way to avoid civil resistance altogether is to withdraw that legislation. Nothing that the Government have published in justification of that Bill has moved the Indian Public to change their attitude of opposition to it.

Sir, it was said by Mahatmaji that the safety laws of any country could not be isolated from the rights of its citizens. The Government which deprives the people of their rights, cannot continue for long because its action is not good. In view of this beautiful principle, this bill which has been introduced by the hon. Chief Minister in the shape of this Security of the State Bill, is not only a bad law but is also a black spot on the history of the Punjab and the noble traditions of our country. It is a black bill. When our brethren will celebrate the memory of the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh, they will, along with feeling sorry for the misdeeds of Dyer and O.Dwyer express sorrow over their own Government also on seeing this bill if it is now passed into a law, because this law will keep the memory of tyranny of Dwyer and others always alive in the hearts of the people. The people of the Punjab will say that they did not return their representatives to the Assembly for the purpose that they should pass such bills to deprive them of their civil liberties. We hear everywhere people saying that the British regime was better than that of this Government. They say, "Did we fight against the Rowlatt Act and offered sacrifices in other national movements for this purpose that our own national Government should trample over our civil rights ?" Sir, through you, I wish to tell the hon. Chief Minister that we are now passing through the year 1953 when the people have become wise and there is consciousness among them. They cannot tolerate that their representatives should pass such bills.

When I read this bill, I felt as if India had been surrounded on all sides by foreign troops and at every place our forces had been stationed for the defence of the country. I also felt that a number of organisations had sprung up in the country whom it was not possible for the police to fight, and it was to face that emergency or some internal disorder that the Government had brought forth a bill of this type. Sir, I am amazed to find no such situation existing anywhere. Then what was the necessity that forced the Punjab Government to bring forth such a bill ? It is a bill the like of which is hard to find in the history of the Punjab.

[Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit]

Then our hon. Chief Minister made a reference to arms in his speech. I ask where those arms and ammunitions are ? Who has got them ? Why have not the culprits been arrested ? The hon. Chief Minister has forgotten the real character of the officers of the administration in whose praise he now waxes so eloquent. He has forgotten who they are. It is no doubt true that the hon. Chief Minister can say anything to maintain his *Gaddi*. But he cannot deny the fact that these are the same officers who made false reports against the Congress workers and got them gaoled in false cases in 1942 and other national movements. Once again on the basis of the false reports of the same officers, such allegations are being levelled against the Communists which cannot be believed by anybody who possesses even an iota of sense. Again, when the Government is terrified on the basis of the false reports of the Police, it can think of nothing which is wise and sympathetic. Our Development Minister must be remembering quite well that, when I was in gaol in 1943, my mother was on death bed. Sardar Sahib went along with a deputation to meet Sir Khizar Hyat Khan to request him that I may be released on parole. But he did not agree to it. It is, therefore, no use passing such black laws. The Government cannot now succeed in crushing the rights of the people with violence since there is no foreign Government now over here. You may make any number of laws of this type, but the people cannot be suppressed.

Then the Communists were accused and much capital was made out of this accusation that they possessed arms and they were secretly preparing the people for guerilla warfare. I say it confidently that this is quite wrong and there is not a grain of truth in it. It is due to the false reports of your police officers. Then it has been stated in Fletcher Report that the Communists have also decided to murder the police officers secretly at odd hours. What an absurd misstatement it is! I assure you that the Communist Party has always been condemning individual terrorism and condemns it even now. It is the belief of the Communist Party that, if a change can be brought about in the society of a country, it can be brought about through a social revolution only. It cannot be brought about with the methods of which we are being accused. Then why should we kill these poor police officers? What is their fault ? They adjust themselves according to the Government of the day, whatever it may be. We no doubt adopt good things out of the books on Communism. We get lessons from other countries where great revolutions have occurred. Besides this, we derive lessons from the history of India also. We believe that it does not become our friends that they should level such mean accusations against the Communist Party.

Sir, it appears from this bill that the hon. Chief Minister has started having nightmares on account of the Communists which have terrified him and due to which he is bent upon passing such laws. He should know that the people are now awakened and they will not easily allow themselves to be deprived of their rights. The hon. Chief Minister should tell whether it was we who taught guerilla warfare to the people of Ludhiana ? Are we responsible for the struggle which the tenants have launched against their ejectments? The hon. Minister for Development who is now sitting downcast very well knows that there have been 84 disputes which were engineered by the jagirdars. So much so that some of the Members of the Assembly themselves made some ejectments. We have got proof with us of this fact. But neither any action has been taken against them nor have they been arrested. Whenever the Government expresses its anger it is expressed against the Communists.

Then the hon. Chief Minister talks of the days when we had not heard of his name even. But I ask from the hon. Minister who has taken part in Akali and other national movements, whether he realises it or not that to pass this bill is tantamount to putting a blot on the fair name of the Punjab, on its history and on its beautiful traditions ? Will not the people while celebrating the martrydom of the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh on the 13th April, in the presence of this bill, say that our leaders and representatives are following in the footsteps of Dyer and O'Dwyer ? The Ministers should see whether they are really serving the interests of the Punjab by passing this bill. In our opinion, they are not follwoing a proper course.

So far as the allegations made by the hon. Chief Minister against the Communist Party with regard to guerilla warfare and individual terrorism are concerned, I have already replied to them. And then as the Secretary of the Communist Party I assure him that we are absolutely against individual terrorism. I put a suggestion to him. It is this that instead of levelling wrong charges on the basis of wrong reports against us, he should set up a committee which should enquire into the charges levelled against the Communist Party with a view to finding out whether there is any truth in them.

Then it is said that we have here every type of freedom of speech and freedom of association. Where does that freedom exist ? Section 144 alone does not allow us to remain at peace anywhere. Where have we to conduct meetings and to tell things to the people ? We applied for permission to celebrate Stalin Week and the application was submitted seven days before the commencement of the week. What became of that application is very well known to the Government.

Shri Ram Kishan : You did address a meeting at Goraya.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit : But at Goraya there was no ban on holding meetings. I will again repeat that the allegations made against the Communist Party are not correct. Have you forgotten the officers like Janak Raj and Bhim Singh ?

Mr. Speaker : Please do not mention the names of the officers.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit : Very well, Sir. Those are the officers who made false reports against the Congressmen and got them imprisoned. The reports of such officers were ultimately condemned by the Congress Working Committee because they were wrong through and through. Even now allegations are being made against us on the basis of the reports of such officers and those reports have not a grain of truth in them. But the Government considers those reports true. The Government, however, should know that the Punjab people, even though they are asleep at present, cannot be kept in darkness for very long. They know who is working more honestly for their good.

We find that the Chief Minister goes on tours to preside over convocations. He is invited by the students for this purpose as they desire that the present system of education should be changed. When the Government is not in a position to do anything for them, they are naturally attracted by other parties and this urge on their part can by no means be suppressed or crushed by any Government. The courage and confidence of the Punjabis as also their desires to improve their standard of living cannot be suppressed by any Act.

[Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit]

The time when tyrants like Dyer attempted to gag the people of this country has passed. The history of India and that of our struggle for independence clearly show that no amount of tyranny can crush the voice of the people. The people will continue to fight for their independence even in the presence of twenty such bills. The world is now progressing. Such Bills and the tyranny they perpetrate meet their own fate. At present our national struggle is still going on and I would appeal to my brethren who took part in our struggle for independence that they should give due consideration to each and every clause of this Bill. The Punjab has not lost its sense of honour. We shall continue to fight till the day when the authors of such Bills are no longer to be found in this House and the voice of the people is heard.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, hon. Friends of the Opposition have while opposing this motion made some remarks which call for a reply. Reference has again and again been made to the Rowlatt Act. I think there can be no comparison between law made by our national Government and a law imposed by a foreign Government. As a matter of fact the very attempt at such a comparison shows weakness and ignorance. I perfectly agree when it is said that a democratic Government should not arm itself with such powers which are likely to impose restrictions on the lives of the general public. But unfortunately we have been forced to have powers as there are people in the State who are having recourse to such activities which are dangerous for the peaceful citizens of the State. Mr. Speaker, I ask my friends who claim that they have been second to none in the field of patriotism and who have sarcastically called us as patriots, to say whether or not there are persons in the State who dance to the tunes of other countries. An attempt has been made to conceal the reality by making reference to Mahatama Gandhi. But these very friends who remind us of Gandhiji used to say at the time of the Salt Satyagraha and the Individual Satyagraha that the old man has gone mad. In 1942 when Mahatamaji asked the English to quit India, these very people declared that the war was the people's war and that the English should be helped. This was the extreme limit of treachery which is unprecedented in the history of the world. To-day they claim to be patriots. An hon. Member who is to-day sitting in this House wrote a letter from Campbelpore that he could give information about the whereabouts of Shri Subhash Bose. One is ashamed to see such a member in the House to-day. Do these people wish to preach this kind of patriotism ? I am sure that the people of the Punjab are not behind them. The people of Kangra have taught them a lesson which they would never forget. Are not the people of that place to be included in the general public or 'Janta'. Despite their false propaganda, my friends have been clearly told that the general public is with the Congress. My friends and their comrades had been continuously preaching among the villagers that the water supplied by the Government was harmful for their crops as electricity had been extracted from it. Do they wish to have freedom for doing this kind of work and misguiding the people ? I must say that the people have faith in the Congress. At Kangra the people shouted the slogan 'Long Live Nehru' and voted for the Congress. That the people have faith in the Congress should not be judged by the voice of a few persons sitting in the corner here who have been returned by the mistake of some people dut by the views of those thousands of people who say that they would vote for truth and humanity and not for untruth and treachery. I ask the admirers of Russia whether or not it is a fact that after the Russian Revolution fifteen lakhs persons were put to the sword because they were

opposed to the Government of the people? Did not these very people demand two or three rupees a day for their expenses in the jail? Mr. Speaker, these sympathizers of the public should know that no Government would like to send anybody to the jail without reason as each detenu costs nothing short of two or three hundred rupees a month.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to know from the admirers of the martyrs of Jallian wala as to why they should be celebrating the Stalin week from 13th to 20th April when the 13th April has been fixed for celebrating the day of the martyrs? It is said that Bhagat Singh was a misguided martyr.

Mr. Speaker, in this connection I would like to ask them if it is not a fact-that on the day the Congress Party was going to hold a conference for celebrating the memory of its martyrs they had decided to launch an agitation against it? Now they are trying to hoodwink the public in the name of the Civil Liberty' and cry that the people should be given liberty of expressing their ideas. I would again ask them if it is not a fact that while the Congress Party was holding a very important meeting they had organized a dance show and had fixed the loud-speaker facing towards the meeting? When they asked to sit together for having a heart to heart talk and placing the matter before the public, they shamelessly stated that the Government had unlwafully detained 50,000 persons. I am simply surprised to hear this wrong statement. Now when the Government has proposed to impose restrictions on the party the history of which is a sad and lengthy story of treachery to its motherland its members are raising slogans of patriotism and civil liberty. Is this the proof of their love for the country which they are giving by betraying the innocent persons and creating obstacles in keeping the flame of independence burning? As a metter of fact, they are cutting the roots of the sapling of independence. How I wish they had hung their heads in shame and let the present Bill be passed. In the end I would suggest, Sir, that it should be passed with a great majority.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, from the provisions of the Bill which has been introduced by the Chief Minister it appears that armed guerilla parties have been organized in the Punjab and for their suppression it is essential that this measure should be passed otherwise it is impossible to ensure the security of the State and the maintenance of public order. Sir, in this connection I would like to state that even the British Government who had reduced our people to serfs used to pass such strict measures only at the time of emergencies in order to impose restrictions on the people. It is a matter of great surprise that the hon. Members who had strongly endorsed the remarks of the Governor in regard to law and order in the State are now apprehending that the conditions in the State are not yet quite normal or free from serious difficulties, and are feeling the necessity of asking the Central Government to send their armies here.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would challenge the correctness of the statement read out by the Chief Minister in the House. It is not based on facts. If any such report was received by him he should have consulted us in the matter because we are responsible persons and are the representatives of the people. They have not sent any vote of no confidence against us whereas the people of the Chief Minister's constituency have done so. I assure you, Sir, that if he visits any place in the State he likes he will find that the majority of the people are with us and not with him.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I accept this challenge.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot tolerate any interruptions.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Sir, I would ask him to produce any proof in support of the correctness of this statement. I don't know from which source these things originate which endanger public safety or the security of the State and create conflicts and bickerings between the zamindars and the tenants. For all these evils and irregularities not the Communist Party but the Congress Party itself and the Police Officers are responsible before whom the innocent tenants are murdered but they do not take any action. The hon. Members adorning the Treasury Benches used to make alluring speeches before they came into power but now they do not care to honour them. The Prime Minister of India had written countless books on Civil Liberty whereas our own Chief Minister had been the President of the Civil Liberties Union. But since the time they have occupied their respective chairs their angle of vision has altogether changed.

Then a mention has been made of Mr. Fletcher's report. I have had occasion to deal with him. The people of my constituency...............

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should not bring in personal matters.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : I have been compelled to refer to personal matters by the fact that the Chief Minister's report is incorrect.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit : We have no document on the basis of which we could challenge the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister : On a point of order, Sir. He should not refer to any person who cannot defend himself on the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker : The Chief Minister has made his remarks on the basis of his experience. What is your authority for what you are saying ?

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Mr. Speaker, my submission is that this is not all. Even a Congress worker like Lala Duni Chand Ambalavi has said in the course of a statement that the Congress is drifting away from the people.

Shri Mool Chand Jain : This should gladen your heart.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should confine himself to expression of his own views. Why should he worry about the statements of the Congress workers?

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Then, Sir, they claim to be servants of the country. I feel constrained to describe the whole of the speech of the previous speaker as sheer nonesense.

Mr. Speaker : That is not proper.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : But the expression is not unparliamentary.

Mr. Speaker : But a respectable gentleman like you cannot be expected to use such language.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : It would appear Mr. Speaker, that although they have not been able to nationalise anything else yet they have nationalised the service of the country all right. We are really surprised when they taunt us on the score of their patriotism. May I ask what had happened to that patriotism at the time when all the important leaders of the Congress had gone to jails but our worthy Chief Minister was sticking to his office as Minister in the United Punjab ? In spite of that Mr. Speaker, these people come forward dangling their unique patriotism before our eyes. One point I may make clear on behalf of the Communist party. Our aim in helping the British in 1942 was to administer a defeat to Facism and it was duly administered. It is due to that defeat inflicted on Facism that these people are now ruling the country comfortably. Still they have the temerity to taunt us on that score.

Shri Ram Kishan : And now Russia is sending her ships to England to participate in the Coronation parade. This is revival of the old friendship.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Then, Sir, I wish to point out that the same laws are being enacted now as the British had made with a view to perpetuating our slavery. First of all this Government brought forward the Habitual Offender's Bill which was passed to the Statute Book. Then the Preventive Detention Act was presented to the people. Now that the Punjab Security of the State Act was due to expire they have come forward with the present Bill. I fail to understand why they should feel the necessity for bringing forward this measure when they already have at their disposal Sections 107, 109, 110 and 144 to strangle the freedom of the people. The party whose strength has been reduced from 99 to 97 should not taunt us on the score of their large majority because they could not secure more than 38 per cent votes in the General Elections. Now they are enacting laws of this nature in order to deal a death blow to the freedom of the people which means that they are drifting still farther away from the people. Instead of taking steps to remove unemployment and helping the people in earning their livelihood they are making laws like the present one. We find that a Sub-Inspector of Police whom a magistrate declared as responsible for having instituted a false case is still unpunished. No action is taken against police officers for implicating innocent people in false cases. The police is still sticking to its old methods and causing harassment to the people by instituting false cases against them. But our Chief Minister is not content even with this state of affairs and has brought forward this measure in spite of the fact that there is so much talk about separating the Judiciary from the Executive. True that we have been given the right to appeal to the Supreme Court in respect of cases instituted under this Act. But every citizen does not have the means to go up to the Supreme Court. The poor people who cannot get two square meals a day cannot be expected to possess the means to seek redress from the High Court or the Supreme Court. I must say that civil liberties are being ruthlessly trampled upon in our country. Might one ask whether the people of the Punjab have risen up in revolt so that the Government has been forced to bring forward this measure ? Previously, they used to say that the people of the 13 districts of Doaba are politically minded and now they are being dubbed as communalists. Is it not strange that these gentlemen are condemning as communalists those very people whose votes have given them their Ministerial "gaddis" and all the enjoyments of a luxurious life ?

I would like the House to know how they respect the law themselves. Only the other day one of the hon. Ministers was in Dehra Gopipur travelling in a jeep which had no number plate and when it was pointed out to him that

[Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut]
he was doing something wrong he did not care even to give a reply and rode off. Now when this matter was brought to the notice of the Sub-Inspector of Police on duty and the said officer was asked why he did not challan the offender he frankly admitted that he did not want to invite trouble by taking such an action.

Sir, I would now say something about the method which the Ministers adopt for getting votes from the people. They adopt very unusual tactics during their election campaigns. They hold alluring promises to the people. During the course of his election tour of Kangra, too, the Chief Minister told the people that they had earmarked a sum to the tune of one lakh rupees for the development of the potential resources of that area. These are, as a matter of fact, the only circumstances which help them win elections (*interruptions*). I feel that this Bill embodies discriminatory and objectionable provisions. The powers contained in it have already been abused to a very great extent. I, therefore, wish that since the Bill has got a direct concern with the general people it is but meet and proper that it may be circulated for obtaining their verdict thereon. If, however, the Government is reluctant to do so, let it think over *its* necessity dispassionately. Sir, it is a matter of great astonishment that no investigations are conducted against the people who are charged with certain allegations. In these circumstances, I do feel that in order to thrash it out, the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City—North-West) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I have listened with rapt attention the speeches made on this Bill by the Members of the Opposition—more particularly the one, delivered by the hon. Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut. During the course of his speech, he has made a special reference to three or four matters.

First of all, Sir, he has opined that this Act is analogous to the Rowlatt Act. Through you, Sir, I would like to enquire of this hon. Member the reasons that forced the people of the Punjab and the masses of the country to launch an agitation against the enactment of the said Act ? Let me tell him that it was due to the fact that the then foreign Government which ruled our country wanted to suppress and cow down even the non-violent agitation which was a part of our battle for freedom. It wanted to cut at the very root of the independence movement which was gaining strength day by day in every nook and corner of the country. Naturally the law which was calculated to impair and impede the National Movement was sure to be resisted and opposed by the people. But now when our own Government—the Government of the peolple, by the people and for the people—is going to place this Act on the Statute Book, it never means to enforce it against the people who further their activities and programmes by peaceful and non-violent methods. Let me make it clear that it will be enforced only against those who are conspiring to overthrow this Government through the weapon of violence. To-day, when we have a Constitution based on democratic principles guiding the destinies of the nation, these people are at liberty to change the present Government through 'Ballot'. But, Sir, I would like to make it abundantly clear to my hon. Friends, engaged in the activities prejudicial to the interests of the State, that no Indian and particularly the Punjabi would let them replace the Government of the day by the help of the 'bullet' (*Cheers*).

Apart from it, coming to the question of civil liberties, he has opined that the dignity and prestige of the people are always in jeopardy in the countries where they are denied the fundamental rights of civil liberties. True. I subscribe myself every inch to this observation. But Sir, I cannot help saying that perhaps he has, in making such a fine remark, altogether ignored the basic characteristics of the Constitution of India. Therefore, with your permission, Sir, I feel proud to observe that of all the constitutions at present in force in the different countries of the world; the Constitution of India confers the greatest number of civil liberties on its people. But one thing, however, is perfectly clear. A licence of the civil liberties cannot be given to anybody. Nobody can be allowed to misuse them. As a matter of fact, a latitude can not be given to the people in the name of civil liberties which tends to create and promote lawlessness and anarchy in the State (*Cheers*).

Then, Sir, I would like to make another observation. I wish to enquire as to what system of Government do you prefer ?

Mr. Speaker : I would like the hon. Member to address the Chair and not the hon. Members.

Shri Ram Kishan : Well, with your permission, Sir, I would like to enquire of these hon. Friends to let us, after all, know what system of Government do they want to be set up ? What kind of civil liberties do they prefer to be bestowed on the masses ? Do they want that the civil liberties may be conferred on the people exactly on the analogy of the People's Republic of China ? If this be the case, I would like to tell you, Sir, what kind of civil liberties the constitution of that country permits to its people. In fact there are two categories of the people in that country. They are 'peoples' and non-peoples'. What are the definitions of these two terms ? 'Peoples' are those persons who have been enlisted as members of the Communist Party, whereas the 'non-peoples' are persons who constitute that section of the masses which does not honour the constitution and is engaged in a activities prejudicial to the welfare of the State. Besides, the capitalists, industrialists and big landlords also come in the category of the 'non-peoples'. Not to speak of civil liberties, even rights of citizenship have not be safeguarded in that Constitution. Then, Sir, do these hon. Members desire such a Constitution to be framed for this country which may not even confer the fundamental rights on the people ?

Besides, Sir, my hon. Friends have advocated that this Bill be either referred to a Select Committee or circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. Perhaps, my hon. Friends are not aware of the fact that the masses have already given their verdict in favour of this piece of legislation. This Act, as a matter of fact, was in force throughout during the President's rule. With your permission, Sir, I wish to remind the hon. Members of the Opposition that it was on the basis of this very Act that they fought elections in all the 126 constituencies of the State. This was their main argument during their election campaign that with this Act on the Statute Book, the Government was bent upon encroaching the civil liberties of the masses. But despite this false and malicious progpaganda the people gave their verdict in favour of this Act. And it is in the light of that verdict that we have presented this Bill in the House to-day.

Mr. Speaker, these hon. Friends also made a mention of the Constitution during the course of their speeches. I am glad that the Constitution adopted

[Shri Ram Kishan]
by the country after the attainment of freedom, confers equal rights of speech, expression, movement, etc., on the people irrespective of any distinction. But, at the same time, it cannot, however, be tolerated that the violation of the Constitution should go unchecked. Therefore, the Constitution itself provides such a provision with a view to checking the infringements. Clause II of Article 19 embodies that :

(2) Nothing in sub-clause (a) of clause (1) shall affect the operation of any existing law in so far as it relates to, or prevent the State from making any law relating to libel, slander, defamation, contempt of court or any matter which offends against decency or morality or which undermines the security of, or tends to overthrow, the State.

In the circumstances, Sir, I can say that the Bill under consideration is perfectly consistent with the provisions of the Constitution. In no way can it be called *ultra vires* of its spirit.

Then, Sir, the Communist Member has objected to the allegation that they are in possession of illegal arms. He has challenged us to prove the said allegation. Besides, he asks from where could they secure the arms ? Sir, I do not want to refer to any person of the Government party nor do I like to quote the speeches of the hon. Minister. I simply want to reproduce the statement of their own party leader, Mr. P. Sundarayya. He admitted in the Coucil of States that their party was , of course, in possession of illegal arms. They could surrender them only in case the Government was prepared to compromise with them. Unless, a compromise was reached, they would like to replace the Government. They would not hesitate to subject themselves to the policy of violence if the cherished task required it.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit : On a point of information, Sir. May I know if the members can refer to any outside person on the floor of the House without any previous authority ?

Mr. Speaker : Does the hon. Member accept the responsibility of this statement ?

Shri Ram Kishan : Yes, Sir. All the papers have published this statement of the hon. Member of the Parliament in their respective issues. Sir, what I wish to tell you is the system of tactics adopted by these gentlemen to win over the people to their points of view and thus mislead the innocent masses, at large. Besides, I would like to enquire of these hon. Friends whether the pictures which they display before the people in each village, town or district are not deplorable ? Mr. Speaker, without saying much, I would like to place only one instance before you. For your information, Sir, I wish to relate a scene of the drama which they played during the course of their election campaign at Kangra. There they exhibited the Prime Minister of India taking wine. What greater mis-representation of facts could there be than to present the patriots, the Ministers, the ladies and gentlemen of the country in such a contemptible way to the illiterate, and innocent masses of the country ? However, Sir, I am very pleased with the farsighted judgment of the people who dealt them a severe blow saying that they would not be inclined to associate themselves with a party who is wedded to such like vicious ideologies and programmes in its manifesto. (*Interruptions*). We need not go too far. The result of the recent bye election is going to be declared to-day or tomorrow. With a view to winning over

the votes of the people in this election campaign, too, they did not hesitate to raise the same old slogan that in order to perpetuate its policy of making encroachments upon the legitimate rights and privileges of the masses, the Government had enforced the Public Safety Act, which was exactly analogous to the Rowlatt Act. This is not all. They instigated the people to overthrow the present Government in case they wanted to have their fundamental rights. But I am glad that people paid scant regard to their argument and gave them a befitting reply. They said that they would rather be pleased if the people, who had made innumerable sacrifices for the attainment of independence for India, were to enact a piece of legislation which aimed at the maintenance of the hard won freedom. In these circumstances, Sir, I would like to tell these hon. Members that they would eventually know how graciously their nominee in this field suffers a crushing defeat !

Mr. Speaker, I was submitting that freedom of expression can be tolerated in this State as well as in the whole country but there are two things which cannot be permitted. If any organisation, however big it may be, tries to create chaos or violence, it cannot be permitted to do so. Some of my hon. Friends said that this law would not be administered properly. Have they forgotten that when they adopted parliamentary and democratic methods, the Chief Minister of this State lost no time in releasing them from jails ? I want to assure them that so long as they have faith in democratic methods, this law will not be used against them. It will be used against those who commit violent acts. It is not aimed against any particular individual or organization. Its provisions will be invoked for taking action against those who want to destroy this country and replace our national flag by the flag of some other country. It will give protection to those who want to preserve peace and freedom in the country. It was said that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee or public opinion should be elicited on it. I beg to submit that the inhabitants of the Punjab have already expressed their views on it.

In District Jullundur there is a village, named Doora. A murder was committed there but the members of the Communist Party threatened its inhabitants that if anybody gave information about it the village would be invaded. Some of the Communists who went there for threatening the people had been declared absconders.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Members would perhaps be aware of the fact that some prominent members of the Communist Party have been touring the interior of the Himachal State in order to establish their pockets there because of its proximity to China and Tibet.

I beg to submit that it is necessary to pass and enforce this Bill as early as possible so that the people may live in peace.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, it has been stated in the statement of Objects and Reasons attached to this Bill that 'Conditions in the State, however, are not yet quite normal or free from serious difficulties'. We have heard the address of the Governor and the speeches delivered by the hon. Chief Minister and both of them have said that the law and order situation in the State is very satisfactory. On the basis of my personal knowledge too, I can say that as compared to the conditions prevailing in other States of India the situation here is much better . (*Cheers*). During

[Shri Sri Chand]
the last five years the incidence of serious crime in our State has been constantly on the decline. It has resulted in not only reducing the work of the police but has enabled us to send our police force to Kashmir to suppress the trouble there. Under these circumstances it is not correct to say that the conditions are not normal and free from serious difficulties. Whenever the Government wants to get a measure passed it should plainly state the reasons for taking that step instead of beating about the bush. Nobody can say that the conditions in the State are such that a Bill of this nature should be passed. This is not an emergency measure and in my opinion there is no necessity of passing such measure in normal conditions. Not only I feel so ; all our prominent leaders including Mahatama Gandhi held the view that in any civilized country nobody should be detained without trial. Depriving a person of his liberty and ordering his detention can be justified only when conditions in the country are such that his free movement is harmful to the country and the harm done by his detention would be less than that resulting from his not being detained.

One of my hon. Friends remarked that it was not a new measure as such laws were passed in 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951 also. I think that instead of taking pride over this thing we should feel ashamed of it. Such measures can be placed on the Statute Book at times of war or some other such emergency. It was said that it was not a foreign Government which wanted to pass this measure as that; it was our own Government that wanted to pass this Bill. I beg to submit that the pain caused by a gun-shot or detention does not become less simply because the Government ordering it is not foreign but our own. It is no argument that we should not grudge giving unlimited powers to the Government simply because it is our own Government. I at least am unable to understand the force of this argument. The gentleman who spoke before me did not utter a single word about this Bill. He simply criticised the Communist Party and said that certain happenings were taking place in China and Russia. It is the business of the Governments of those countries or of the Government of India to see what was happening in China and Russia. We have to examine the conditions prevailing in the Punjab and to decide whether there is any need of a measure of this kind.

According to what the Chief Minister or the Governor has remarked or so far our experience shows there appears to be no urgent necessity for passing such a measure. As a matter of fact such a measure should exist in the countries which are uncivilised. This law is against the spirit of jurisprudence as it aims at putting people in jail without holding their trial in any court of law. This legislation can be enacted if there is any special emergency in the State. We have nothing to do with what is going on in Hydrabad or Himachal Pradesh. We are only concerned with our own State. I would ask the Government wheter it is confronted with such situation in the Punjab that any party is collecting arms or thinking of raising a banner of revolt against the Government ? In case such a situation develops then no man in the Punjab would ever tolerate it. If the Government want that peace and tranquillity should prevail in the State it should not strike terror in the mind of the people. If at any time any grave situation develops in the State the Government can pass this law by calling an emergent meeting of the Assembly. There is no denying the fact that there is no need for passing such a measure in normal circumstances. The Congress had always been saying aloud that it would not like to entrust extensive powers to the police but I fail to understand why the Government is now passing such a measure

when there is no justification for enacting such a law. When the Sales Tax Act was passed here it was stated on behalf of the Government that it was passing this law on the analogy of Bombay and Madras Governments. Now our Government is setting an example for other States to follow by passing this law in our State.

Sardar Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) (*Hindi*) : It is an admitted fact that the Government should have in its armoury laws to take speedy action to cope with the threatening situation if it develops in the State at any time. But at the same time the Government before enacting any piece of legislation should try to judge the conditions prevailing in the State. Just as my hon. Friend has recently remarked and some other hon. Members have also expressed their views there are no abnormal conditions in the State. I do not agree with the sponsor of the Bill who stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the conditions in the State are not normal or free from difficulties. I think that the conditions in the State are not such which may necessitate the passing of such a measure. There is no doubt that if this Bill is brought forward after making some changes therein it may be acceptable to the members of the House and may be called a useful measure for the State. Now the question is what type of administration could guard against all dangers ? For this I think it is imperative that the Government should try to meet all the legitimate demand of the people so that no person should have any grouse against it and thus venture to raise a banner of revolt against the Government. It should be the foremost consideration of the Government to win the hearts of the people and promote their well-being. If the Government work on right lines no person can dare rebel against it. I think that this law would be against the principles of a democratic Government and against the social laws of the twentieth century. If the Government guarantees every person justice, liberty. equality and fraternity and grants equality of opportunity to all then only a fool would raise his voice against the Government. Sir, you will recollect that when Rowlatt Act was passed we both raised our voice against that Act and openly declared that such repressive laws would not cow down our spirits. Now when our own national Government has been set up it should create conditions of happiness for the people so that they may feel the blessings of this 'raj'. I would say that it is a great sin to pass a law which aims at stifling the voice of the people. I had hopes that the Government will not bring forward such a Bill in the changed circumstances. During the British regime when I had described the Rowlatt Bill as a strangulating Bill I was sentenced to transportation for life. This Act left no scope for appeal, reasoning or engaging of a counsel. The people were not to reason why, theirs was not to make reply. Theirs was but to do and die. Similarly under this Bill the hands of the police have been strengthened. I think that if extensive powers are given to the police it will try to misuse its powers. I would, therefore, request the Government that it should not pass this Bill and in case the Government is bent upon passing this measure it should not put into force immediately. It has been stated on behalf of the Government that this Act will be put into force at once. I ask the Government, is our State threatened with any grave danger ? Are the clouds of war thundering on the horizon ? Is there any grave emergency in the State that Government consider it necessary to pass such a measure? The Government may have this law in its armoury but I would suggest that this law should not be enforced at once.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have heard the speeches deliverd on this Bill with rapt attention. I am surprised to find professor Mota Singh still living in the pre-partition and pre-independence era. At least this is the impression that any impartial

[Minister for Development]
person will form on hearing his speeches. He seems to be oblivious of the advent of freedom and democracy in this country otherwise he would not have remarked that the people were being debarred from the right of appeal and the help of 'Vakil'. May I ask him, to what evil has the operation of this measure led during the period that its provisions have been in force in the form of an Ordinance or a President's Act and to what further catastrophe will it lead if it is now given the shape of a permanent legislation ? Has it not been repeatedly made clear in this Bill that whatever provision was being made, it was being made for the sake of maintenance of law and order and the security of the State and not with a view to depriving the people of their civil liberty. This Bill has been brought forward to replace the President's Act which is expiring on the 17th of April. Only a few alterations have been made in the President's Act. I wonder what was the occasion for all this uproar ?

My hon. Friend Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit is also labouring under a grave misunderstanding. This measure is not aimed at the Communist party or for that matter at any other party. It does not contain a single reference to any party. Persons who respect the Constitution have no reason to fear any of its provisions but it will definitely be used against those who have no regard for the Constitution, who want to desecrate it, who want to disturb public peace and order and who want to uproot our national flag and plant some other flag in its place. (*Cheers*). There is no gain saying the fact that fear has to be instilled in the minds of such persons and those whose conduct is upright need fear none. If my hon. Friend thinks that its provisions are repugnant to any Articles of the Constitution, he will be free to file a petition in the High Court challenging its validity. Surely, it is not difficult to have such a measure declared void. Then, he has complained that provision has not been made for the right of appeal. He has perhaps not read it carefully. Is there not a provision to consult a Judge of the High Court ?

I am happy to be in a position to say that the persons who want to distrub peace and order are yet numerically few in this State. But we cannot ignore the fact that this is the State which has had to bear the impact of the shock of the partition to a larger extent than any other province and we have not yet been able to offset completely its bad effects. If we cannot maintain even peace and order, how can we entertain any hope of a bright future for our State ? How can there be any progress in the absence of peace and order ? The hon. Chief Minister has clearly explained to the House the reasons for which the Government still needs this measure. On the one hand, we have a set of people who can think only of destruction and nothing else—a curb needs to be applied to them, and on the other hand we have the communal-minded people who wanted to create disturbed conditions in this State because they thought they could thus prove helpful to their friends in Jammu and Kashmir. If they have failed in their designs, the credit goes to the Government which took prompt action and also to the good sense of the people in general and to some parties which gave them a correct lead and did not let them go astray. So far as those who believe in violent activities are concerned, their apprehensions are understandable but this measure is not aimed at any particular party or individual. It is aimed neither at Sardar Chhina, nor at Sardar Dhut nor at Sardar Surjit. A peaceful, law-abiding citizen need entertain no fear. I admit that the Communist friends have not been in favour of individual terrorism ever since an attempt was made in 1921 or 1922 to shoot down Lenin, but their fellow-travellers, I mean the Red Communists still believe in such methods.

Everybody knows that the Communists have faith in mass revolution and we would surely welcome their efforts to bring it about by legal and constitutional methods. (*Cheers*). But they cannot be allowed to create chaotic and anarchic conditions. Nobody can be allowed to undermine the loyalty of the Defence Forces. True, this measure is aimed at those who say that the British rule was better and so on and so forth. Would a person saying that the rule of Czars was better be tolerated in Russia to-day? This Bill does not name any person or party. Its provisions will apply only to those who try to undermine the security of the State or constitute a danger to public order.

No sensible person can compare this Bill to the Rowlatt Act which was enacted in the time of alien rule and by executive authorities. This measure is being enacted by an Assembly elected by the people. The Constitution of our country gives to every citizen the right to criticize the Governments or the persons constituting them or anybody else without, of course, employing improper language in his effort to change any Government but surely nobody can be allowed to violate the Constitution.

No party has the right to mislead the people. I do not want to explain the causes of the defeat suffered by the Congress in Nakodar bye-election. All that I may say is that it was due to the treachery of some persons and the false propaganda carried on by some others. The hon. Chief Minister has informed the House about the degrading propaganda that had been carried on in connection with the bye-election held in Kangra District. I am, however, certain that nobody can deceive the public for ever. Sir, the Congress candidate has, I learn, won that seat by a majority of 12,000 votes and this should serve as an eye-opener for my friends sitting opposite. Sir, this is a sign of democracy. It is in democracy that there is freedom for propagation of ideas. I say, even if our political opponents were to try to mislead the public by propagating lies, it comes to know of reality and it supports that party which truly and in real sense of the word works for the betterment of the public. During the election for the Haripur seat of Kangra, the people have given proof of the fact that they are with the Congress and if they had been misled at the time of the election for the Nakodar constitutency, now they had realised the truth.

Then my hon. Brother said that he had participated in the struggle for independence to the full extent. For this I respect him and their party in particular which decided to help the British Government during the Second World War and helped that Government by calling that war a People's War but did not support the Congress. Then my hon. Brother said that whereas they took lesson from the history of other countries they also took lesson from the history of India itself. Sir, you please note these words a bit. My brother does not say the history of our country, on the other hand, he calls it the history of India. This shows the amount of regard that these Gentlemen have in their hearts for their beloved country.

Then my hon. Brother said that their party did not believe in individual terrorism. That is good but ultimately their actions will prove it. However, I submit that very well disciplined and wise political parties do not at all believe in violence. But if they put even the slightest belief in violence then they should have no right over this country. (*Cheers*).

[Minister for Development]

Then, my hon. Brethren sitting opposite say that there is no need of such a law in this age of freedom. I may submit that freedom does not mean that you are free to insult anybody or to strike out the eyes of anybody or to break anybody's legs. Even freedom has its own laws by acting on which you can lead a full life of freedom. You may call Partap Singh or Sachar Sahib bad. They will put up with it ; but they can never tolerate that anybody should sabotage this free country . (*Cheers*).

My hon. Friend said that it appeared from this bill as if some enemy had surrounded us on all sides. That is not the thing. If, however, the forces of any enemy should come, we shall then get lakhs of chances to show our bravery. (*Cheers.*) But we do not want that on such an occasion, any fifth columnists should sabotage the country and should demoralise the people. We have not to give such an opportunity to any body and that is the reason for this Bill.

Then, my hon. Friend, Professor Mota Singh said, certain things during his speech. I would say only this much that howsoever beautiful atmosphere he may create at any place, he is sure to find mischievous people even there. In this connection, I am reminded of the words of our respected philosopher Shri Radha Krishnan. He says that whereas India has given birth to the noblest creators of the Vedanta philosophy, there is also no dearth of the worshipers of snakes. So if we love our country and respect our Constitution and our flag and if we want that our country should remain independent and if we want to maintain the security of our Constitution and the respect of our flag, then we can in no case tolerate that they should be endangered in any way. It is to meet such a danger, that this bill has been brought forward.

We know what is going on in our neighbouring country—Pakistan, now-a-days. We do not want that similar conditions should be created here also. We do not want that there should be bloodshed and abduction of women or other subversive activities. We have achieved independence after slavery of a thousand years and we do not want it to be endangered now. We hear from some quarters that the people of Pakistan have excelled us in loot and murder. To save the country's peace from the people of such a mentality, the Government has to take into its hands some powers at least. It is an admitted fact that a handful of ruffians, by organising themselves, can create hell for a thousand gentlemen and can disturb the peace of the State. Besides this, the period through which we are passing is a transitional period and during this period immediately after the advent of independence, there is fear of upheavals. My Communist Brethren know full well that in Russia the transitional period lasted from 1918 to 1932. Not only that. Even after that there has been dictatorship over there up till now. On the other hand, we have established here a full fledged democracy. So to maintain the freedom of this country and its Constitution and to keep the flag of our courtry flying, it is necessary that the bill which has been introduced should be passed. You will be free to scrap such laws when our independence will have become secure and the transitional period will have ended. (*Cheers*).

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, our hon. Chief Minister reminds us of our speeches. But has he forgotten the speeches of the members of his own party which they delivered at the time of the election for the seat of Haripur ? A Congress member told the people there

that they were voting for those who would be arrested the very next day and Sardar Satwant Singh who was working there as an organiser on behalf of the Communist Party was actually arrested.

Shri Ram Kishan : He was arrested because he was an absconder.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : That is not correct. Sardar Satwant Singh has been going about freely for the last 1½ years and has been working in the office all this time. The Government did not think of arresting him at first and if at all the thought occurred to it, it was exactly at the time of the Haripur election. (*Laughter*). That gentleman has done a lot of work in Kangra.

Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member is irrelevant. Election of Haripur constituency is not under discussion.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Sir, what I mean to say is that the reason for the introduction of this bill is that the people are more anxious to hear the speeches of the members of our party as compared with other parties and they think that our party does more solid work for the public. So the Government is afraid lest the Communists should come into power. But outwardly it does not admit this fact and the hon. Minister sitting opposite puts forth arguments to show that the things are different. But along with this, he says that the independence and the Constitution have to be tied with a rope which may keep them intact and that rope is this Punjab Security of State Bill. We are unable to appreciate this argument because the Constitution does not provide that the civil rights of the people should be suppressed.

Then, as regards the allegations made against the Communist Party on the basis of the false reports of the Police, I would like to submit that the House should set up a committee which should investigate into all the charges to find out as to where the Communists have got their ammunition dumps and where they have indulged in subversive activities. Much emphasis has been laid on the report of the Police ragarding Pathankot. I may tell you that the Government officers themselves violated the law over there. Then I ask the hon. Minister and the representative of Amritsar, who are sitting opposite, from how many members of our party have they recovered arms? It is really strange to find that our Government is afraid of so small things. It fears even monkeys. It appears as if it is suffering from Monkey Mania. No Government can be run in this manner. Wrong reports are submitted to Government and I would propose that in case Government wants to have correct reports, a committee should be appointed for this purpose. If the Government wants to know the views of the people, a refrendum may be held and that will show how far people are with the Government. (*An hon. Member : Kangra will show*). (*Mr. Speaker : Order, order*). Mr. Speaker, I submit that this Bill which is before the House is a replica of the North Western Frontier Security Bill, 1922. The Government says that it is a 1947 Bill but I say that the Officers have very faithfully copied the 1922 Bill. This is what the officers do. They are submitting wrong reports as they used to do during the British regime and say that large dumps have been found. On the one hand it is said that conditions have become normal but on the other it is said that dumps have been found. It is something very strange.

Mr. Speaker, according to an argument advanced by some friends black Acts of the British regime like the Rowlatt Act should not be preferred to laws made by our own Government. It has been said that if we could tolerate

[Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina]
black Acts like the Rowlatt Act, there is no reason why we should not put up with our own laws. I fail to understand this logic. I say what are the conditions which have rendered this Bill inevitable ? If the Chief Minister has sufficient courage, he should tell us as to where the dumps of the communists have been found ? The same old Commissioners and other officers who used to submit wrong reports during the British regime against the Congressites are to be found even to-day. They are following their old practices. I am in a position to say that the Congress Government cannot continue for long under these circumstances. An hon. Member wanted to get some credit by bringing in the name of Shri Subhash Bose. I don't want to say much in this connection but would only say that his purse was stolen when he went to Lahore.

Mr. Speaker : I call the hon. Member to order. He never mentioned his name. So why should he talk about 'Butwas' (*purses*) and other things which have got no connection with the Bill under discussion.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Mention was made in this connection by the hon. Member and I think I have a right to make a reply.

Mr. Speaker : I again say that he never mentioned the name of the hon. Member. So the hon. Member should withdraw these words.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : I haven't named him either.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member will have to withdraw his words.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Well, Sir, I withdraw them. Mr. Speaker, a reply has to be given when an hon. Member makes a baseless remarks. Anyhow, I was submitting that restrictions are being placed on civic liberty and constitutional protection is being destroyed on the basis of wrong reports that are submitted to Government. This is not something of which the Congressites can be proud. It has been said that this Act had been made by the Governor and now it was being given a different shape. I respectfully submit that if this Act had been made by the Governor, it should have been now repealed by us. It is the duty of the Assembly that it should repeal such laws.

Shri Mool Chand Jain : Sir, I beg to move—

That the question be now put.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now I call upon the Chief Minister to reply to the criticism.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I shall not take much time of the House and shall try to give the reply in a few words. I oppose all that has been said by the hon. Members opposite tooth and nail. Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit made a mention of Dyre and tried to say so many things. I think Dyre was better than people who are not loyal to

their own country. The reason for my thinking so is that some people cease to be faithful to their own country when their country somehow comes into conflict with the "Father land". As a matter of fact this is what has necessitated this Bill. I know it suits some people to say that there is peace in the State and that this Bill is not wanted. They cannot organise their volunteers in the presence of this Act. It is calculated to put a stop to such things. It has been said that wrong reports are submitted by the officers and we are told rather sarcastically that the old officers were still being kept in service. I would go to the extent of saying that the officers always know the inclinations of the Government and act accordingly. This Government has no place for wrong things, and there is no reason why the officers should not give correct reports. I ask my friends to say as to who enjoys the confidence of the public if we don't ? Does not the Kangra election give sufficient proof of the state of affairs ? What does the propaganda done at that place by my friends show ? All sorts of things have been said against the Ministers but I shall take up this matter a short while after. Mr. Speaker, had our workers performed their duties honestly and efficiently we could get the remaining votes also. I admit that many Government officials do not work with that honesty and sincerity as is expected of them but it is a fact that they have due sympathy for their mother land in their hearts and have no relations with foreign countries. They have concentrated their attention on the defence of the State and there is no scope for suspicion in the reports submitted by them. I wish that Chaudhri Sri Chand were in his seat so that I could pay him my compliments for having admitted that the position in regard to law and order in the State was satisfactory. Sir, what we want is that the baneful element which is secretly conspiring against the Government and is in search of an opportunity to overthrow it should be nipped in the bud. That is why we are taking these powers in our hands. True, the position of law and order in the State has improved and this fact is a proof of our being wide-awake and vigilant. It is the result of our all-out efforts which we are making in order to defeat their endeavours for the downfall of the Government. Hence this Bill.

Then, Sir, it has been suggested that such measures should be passed at the time of pressing emergencies. In this connection I would like to submit that at the time of emergency normal conditions do not exist in the State. Our Constitution permits everybody to express his ideas publically and if taking advantage of this concession any individual or a group. who believes in violence, succeeds in conspiring against the Government the question of declaring emergency does not arise. It is, therefore, considered that the powers contained in the proposed Bill should be made available to Government for ensuring the security of the State and the maintenance of public order. Mr. Speaker, ordinarily, we could bring such an Ordinance at the expiry of the present Session of the Assembly but because we are supporters of democracy and want to back up its cause we thought it fit to sit together, have a heart to heart talk and pass this measure unanimously.

Again, Sir, it has been alleged by my hon. Friend Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina that there was some confusion amongst the officers about 'Batai'. I have to submit in this regard that it was all due to wrong interpretation of the law and if he had got any complaint he should have informed the Government about it.

Mr. Speaker, the present Bill has been dubbed by my hon. Friends as a 'Black Bill'. In this connection I am constrained to remark that it is all due to their own angle of vision. I may make it clear to them that if at all it is a 'Black Bill' it is not meant for the sympathisers of our State and on the

Chief Minister]
other hand it is meant for the enemies of the State. Any person who wants to impede the working of administration, wants to interfere with the decency of morality and intends to act in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State is at liberty to do so. He can work according to his own designs while we would deal with him according to our own policy and tact. But I would make it again clear to the House that noble, scrupulous, upright and honest citizens need not fear from this Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Security of the State Bill, 1953, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar, Chief Minister.
Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, Minister for Development.
Chaudhri Sri Chand. M.L.A.,
Sardar Wazir Singh, M.L.A.
Sardar Acchar Singh Chhina, M.L.A.
Shri Kedar Nath Saigal, M.L.A.
Rao Gajraj Singh, M.L.A.
Jathedar Mohan Singh, M.L.A.
Professor Mota Singh, M.L.A.

with instructions to report before the 8th July, 1953.

After ascertaining the votes of the House, by voices Mr. Speaker said "I think the Noes have it. This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Speaker, after calling upon those Members who challenged his decision and supported the claim for a Division, to rise in their places, declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Security of the State Bill 1953, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-Clauses (2) *and* (3).

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-Clauses (2) and (3) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That in sub-clause (1) line 2, the words "to impede the working of, or" be deleted.

That in the explanation, lines 6—8, the words "which is not being in force" be deleted.

That in part (c) of sub-clause (1) line 1, the words "or tramway" be deleted.

That in sub-clause (2), lines 4-5, the words "or to any person" be omitted.

That sub-clause (2) be deleted.

That sub-clause (3) be deleted.

That in sub-clause (4), line 4, for the words "two years" the words "one month" be substituted.

Sir, this clause, to which we have proposed some amendments, seeks to deprive the people of the freedom to organise themselves. Those responsible for drafting the Bill have been oblivious of the fact that they have dragged into the draft even those things which have no existence in the Punjab. Now if there is some dissatisfaction among Government servants, if the employees of the Irrigation Department and of the Railway Department voice their grievances or put forward any demands they can be put behind the bars under this legislation. The items mentioned by me in this connection would show that if some person is suspected of the intention to act in a manner likely to cause damage to a place or a Government building he will be thrown in jail on account of merc suspicion. Not only that. Even if some one passes by an hon. Minister's house and it is suspected that he went there with the intention of attacking the Minister the fellow will be immediately sent to the prison.

Sir, if you read this clause carefully you will come to the conclusion that the Government cannot quote a single incident to justify its inclusion in the Bill. I challenge the Ministers to come forward with any such justification. It is nothing but a figment of their own imagination that if some one passes in front of the door of a Minister his only object could be to attack or kill the Minister.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that if these amendments are not accepted and the Bill is passed as it is then no one opposed to the Government will be allowed to remain out of prison. People will be imprisoned on the basis of incorrect reports and those in the habit of making such reports will find ample scope for mischief. This sort of mischief is already playing *havoc* and now the police will be allowed an absolutely free hand.

As regards my amendment relating to tramways, my submission is that we have never seen any tramway anywhere in the Punjab and if any trams are running in the houses of some hon. Ministers we are not aware of them. The fact is that those responsible for drafting the bill started with the intention of putting an end to all civil liberties. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I appeal to the hon. Ministers through you to accept these amendments. But I feel that they will not accede to this request. It will be said in reply that the Government has provided in the Bill that a strike which is not otherwise illegal will not be actionable under this measure. But who does not know that it takes hardly a second to declare a strike illegal ? We are in touch with labour problems and we know that the moment a mill-owner makes a report that the labourers are about to go on strike it is declared illegal in no time.

Mr. Speaker : Motions moved :

That in sub-clause (1), line 2, the words "to impede the working of, or " be deleted.

That in the explanation, lines 6—8, the words "which is not being in force" be deleted.

That in part (c) of sub-clause (1) line 1, the words "or tramway" be deleted.

That in sub-clause (2), lines 4-5, the words "or to any person" be omitted.

That sub-clause (2) be deleted.

That sub-clause (3) be deleted.

That in sub-clause (4), line 4, for the words "two years" the words "one month" be substituted.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, it is clear from the speeches that have been made so far that although this Bill is not needed in the Punjab as yet still during the recent bye-elections certain persons.....

Minister for Development : I would request the hon. Member not to bring in this matter. It has no relevancy there.

Shri Sri Chand : I am being assured that elections.......

Minister for Development : That assurance was already there.

Shri Sri Chand : As my learned friend pointed out this Bill contains certain provisions relating to circumstances or things which do not exist in the Punjab. For instance there is no tramway in the Punjab. But it does exist in Delhi, it appears that the measure has been copied out from somewhere.

The Assembly, then, adjourned till 2 p.m. on Thursday, the 9th April 1953.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

9th April, 1953.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 9th April 1953

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the Clock. Mr. Speakar (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

QUESTION HOUR (DISPENSED WITH)

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is dispensed with today.

RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSION ON THE PUNJAB SECURITY OF THE STATE BILL.

CLAUSE 2

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda)(*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, in connection with Clause 2 of the Punjab Security of the State Bill, 1953, I have to submit that the security of railways, tramways, vessels, telegraph lines and telegraph posts is most essential from the strategic point of view and Government has to keep a special vigil in the hour of emergency so that no undesirable person can sabotage Governmental machinery.

Mr. Speaker, when there are no vessels or tramways in our State I fail to understand what has led the Government to include them in this clause. It is deplorable that our Government seeks to get powers to restrict the movement of even innocent persons. No explanation has been given either by the Chief Minister or by any of his supporters as to why the words 'vessels' and 'tramways' have been incorporated in the Bill when actually these means of transport do not exist in our State. It appears that the framers of this Bill have not cared to keep in view the conditions obtaining at present in the State. I would, therefore, request that this clause may be deleted as it is not inconsonance with the present conditions prevailing in the State.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (1), line 2, the words " to impede the working of, or " be deleted.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said " I think the Noes have it ". This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Speaker, after calling upon those Members who challenged his decision and supported the claim for a Division, to rise in their places declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in the explanation, lines 6—8, the words " which is not.... being in force" be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in part (c) of sub-clause(1), line 1, the words " or tramway " be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (2), lines 4-5, the words " or to any person " be omitted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That sub-clause (2) be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That sub-clause (3) be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (4) line 4, for the words " two years " the words " one month " be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Speaker: Now Clause 3 is before the House for discussion.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That in sub-clause (1), lines 6-7, the words " or for ....of force " be deleted.

That in sub-clause (2), line 4, for the words " one year, or with fine, or with both " the words " one month " be substituted.

Mr. Speaker, if the amendments moved by me are rejected and the clause is passed as it stands at present, then it will mean that no volunteer corps can be organised in future. You will remember, Sir, that when you were the President of the Provincial Congress you considered volunteer corps a very real necessity. These volunteers play a very important part in the organisation of meetings and other activities of every party. Moreover, every party should be fully disciplined and we want every individual to learn what discipline is. Any party that wants to work for the public welfare cannot carry on its activities without proper organisation. It may be stated that in 1940 my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh started a camp for organising and strengthening the volunteer corps. Not only this. The late Lokmaniya Tilak was a staunch advocate of a properly disciplined and strong organisation of volunteers. Therefore, I urgently request that these amendments may be accepted so that there may be no fear of any restrictions being placed on the organisation of volunteer corps.

Mr. Speaker: Motions moved—

That in sub-clause (1), lines 6-7, the words " or for ...... of force " be deleted.

That in sub-clause (2), line 4, for the words " one year, or with fine, or with both the words " one month " be substituted.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I wish to make it clear that this clause is not meant to place any restrictions on the organisation of volunteer corps. The intention is to ban the organisation of any military force. It is absolutely clear from the wording of the clause, viz: " usurping the function of the police or the unauthorised use or display of force ". If each political party is allowed to have a semi-military organisation, no Government can function smoothly. But every party will have the right to organise its volunteer corps. There will be no restriction on the organisation of Seva Samitis and volunteer corps. But those who want military training would do well to join the Army. My hon. Friend Sardar Achhar Singh has made a reference to a training camp. That is correct. A camp was started in 1940 for training the volunteers. But that training was for no other purpose than that of service of the people. For such a purpose it is not necessary to get training in the use of lathi or rifle.

Again, these restrictions are designed to be imposed on such organisations as carry on their activities secretly and whose identity remains unknown. My hon. Friend Sardar Achhar Singh is smiling, but I may tell him that both we and his party are in the dark about the movements and activities of these people. As a matter of fact such people do not belong to his party; nor are they to be found among us. They are entirely foregin to our organisations. Under the circumstances it is not possible for me to accept the amendments suggested by my hon. Friend opposite.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (1), lines 6-7, the words " or for......of force" be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (2), line 4, for the words " one year, or with fine, or with both the words " one month " be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That in line 9, the words " is either of a military nature or " be deleted.

That in lines 10-11 for the words " weapon of offence " the words " firearms " be substituted.

That the Clause be deleted.

[Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut]

Sir, in this Clause the Government seeks to impose restrictions even on the movement of the people. Further, it has been stated that the Deputy Commissioner can exercise these powers if he is satisfied that circumstances warrant him to make use of them for the maintenance of public order. Sir, these are the officers who, in the absence of any abnormal conditions and also without any rhyme or reason promulgate Section. 144 Cr. P. C. This section has been in force for the last two months. It has now been further extended. These very Deputy Commissioners are now being equipped with such wide powers as to enforce this section in the name of the security of the state and the maintenance of public order and tranquillity. Mr. Speaker, I apprehend that the officers will exercise these powers even in cases where the volunteers have been posted to supervise the arrangements and keep a watch over the various conferences organised by private bodies. The vesting of these powers in them would enable them to withdraw lathies from the volunteers who consequently would not be able to discharge their duties properly.

Besides, Sir, frequent disputes arise between the landlords and the tenants in the villages. It goes without saying that the landlords possess revolvers and guns. But the pity of it is that the poor peasants, when openly confronted against the landlords armed with firearms have been denied the right to carry even a lathi for purposes of self-defence. It is obvious that the poor tenant will have to resort to a lathi. But the strange part of it is that the " lathi " according to the provisions of this clause will also be covered by the term " weapon of offence. " Leaving aside this particular case, even the people in general, carrying sticks in their hands, would be debarred from doing so. Naturally, the stick would also be included in the list of weapons.

Then, Sir, the holding of drills has also been banned. I think this would adversely affect the Scout Movement in the State. As you are aware perhaps, the scouts have their own set of uniforms. They carry lathies in their hands. They are even imparted military training. In these circumstances, does it mean that the provisions of this clause will be made applicable even to the activities of the scouts ? I feel that there is no justification for restrictions such as the prohibiting of drill etc. and inclusion of minor weapons in the term " weapon of offence ". Of course, the imposition of restriction on the use of guns and revolvers may be justified, but is it not unfair to prohibit the use of a lathi ? I, therefore, urge upon the Government that either this clause should be amended or deleted altogether.

Mr. Speaker : Motions moved—

That in line 9, the words " is either of a military nat ure or " be deleted.

That in lines 10-11, for the words "weapon of offence" the words " firearms " be substituted.

That the Clause be deleted.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, we apprehend that with the passing of this Bill, the administration of the State may not altogether get crippled. The administrative machinery is so loose that even in the absence of proper legislation the officers twist the interpretation of the existing laws to suit their own ends. But when this Bill is enacted into law, their hands would be strengthened and God knows how much more they will harass the public. It is rather strange that they are seeking powers even to prohibit the drills In schools and colleges the children do various kinds of exercises and drill

Now in view of this provision those activities of the youngsters, which form a part of their health—building campaign, will have to be abandoned. What a fine set of reforms my hon. Friends are carrying out !

Now, the expression ' weapon of offence ' included in this Bill may include any weapon within its definition, as and when required. Sir, I remember how the then Government suppressed the peasants of Montgomery and Multan with a view to helping the big landlords. In the first instance they banned their carrying even lathies and sticks etc. But when during the harvesting season they carried hoes and sickles, they were prohibited from carrying these even. These agricultural inmplements were also declared as weapons of offence. In the circumstances, it leaves not even an iota of doubt in my mind about our Government being determined to repress them. After all, how would they cut the fodder ? How would they cut it without the help of a sickle ? But caring not a bit for the inconvenience of the peasants and the tillers of the land, this agricultural implement will also be declared unlawful. Therefore, I feel that the clause should be deleted.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) : Sir my hon. Friend Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut has stated that even the scouts to whom training in various activities is imparted during the course of the normal school hours will be detained. I wish that all the children must be enlightened with the ideologies of all the " isms " i.e. Communism, Socialism, Capitalism and Gandhism, etc. After all, why have the colleges and the universities been set up ? But I would like to make it perfectly clear that this clause has no concern whatsoever with the rallies of the scouts organised in schools and colleges. I think that the students should be imparted knowledge of every form of government. Since we are determined to establish democracy in the real sense of the word, it is of paramount importance that the youngsters should know the fundamental principles and characteristics of each form of Government—its constitution and functions. On behalf of my party, I would tell the hon. Members of the Opposition that we are prepared to adopt the principles of all the parties provided they are sound and practicable. Therefore, it is not a sin for the children to know of these things. Besides, Sir, the hon. Member hailing from Tanda constituency has opined that the Deputy Commissioners are likely to abuse these powers at places where the scouts are imparted training of a military nature. Does not he know, Sir, that even at present the Deputy Commissioners possess powers to raid and launch arrests whenever they get information that organised military training is being imparted secretly at a particular place ? However, this is not applicable to the training given to the college and school students. Do you not know what the ' belchawalas ' did at Lahore ? In fact, Sir, the District Magistrate is the custodian of the peace of the district. Being so, he is responsible to this House through the Government.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : May I know if ' kirpan ' will be covered by the definition of "weapon of offence " ?

Minister for Development : Sir, I wonder why such a question has been asked ? I would rather suggest to the hon. Member, first, to think very patiently and then have a sound sleep after having taken his meals to his heart's content. Thereafter he should enquireof mea bout all the dreams which he happens to have during his sleep. Why should he ask such a question when he knows full well that carrying of a 'kirpan' is not unlawful. But so far as the

[Minister for Development]
question of 'kirpans', hoes and sickles under the term 'illicit weapon' is concerned, these will definitely be covered by the provisions of this Bill. We have launched a campaign to detect and seize the illicit weapons. In the circumstances, I would like to tell them that the law—abiding citizens need not be afraid of it. They should rest assured that it would not be enforced on them. At present, too, there is no restriction whatsoever for the carrying of 'lathies' etc. Of course, the possession of spears is prohibited by law. Let me, therefore, make it clear that only arms of this nature will come under the definition of the term 'weapon of offence'. So only those people should be frightened who are in possession of illegal arms for the purpose of creating lawlessness and disorder in the State, and not the innocent peasants who lead a peaceful life in their respective places without impeding the working of the administrative machinery.

Then, Sir, I was simply amazed to hear the views of my hon. Friends Shri Wadhawa Ram and Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut regarding the peasants. The peasants and the tenants should have no fear of this Act. Why should they feel overawed when the entire House is at their back ? My Friends talk of the tenants. I can only say that we are building their strength and we hope to see them that slowly and steadily marching on the road of progress and prosperity.

Shri Wadhawa Ram : Do I take it that they will not be ejected from their houses ?

Minister for Development: Nobody can do his work or discharge his duties without going out of the four walls of his house. Even Shri Wadhawa Ram is away from his house at present to do some work. Sir, on account of the way in which he has asked this question, I wish to inform him that in the era of democracy nobody has the power to eject any one else from his house. Let me assure them that nobody will either be harassed or uprooted from his place. In the end Sir, I would simply remark that it is easy to exercise an evil spirit but difficult to remove a suspicion. If they still have apprehensions, then they will have to go to Sardar Gurbhag Singh for treatment.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in line 9, the words "is either of a military nature or" be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in lines 10-11 for the words "weapon of offence" the words "fire arms" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Clause be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Mr. Speaker : I call upon Sardar Harkishen Singh Surjit to move his amendments to Clause 5.

Sardar Harkishen Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I move—

That the Clause be deleted.

That in sub-clause (3), line 4, for the words "one year ......both" the words "one month" be substituted.

That at the end of sub-clause (1) the following words be added—

"unless it is common to other organisations".

Mr. Speaker, it appears that while drafting this clause the Government did not pay proper attention to the whole matter. It was stated yesterday on the floor of the House that this law would be used against those persons who did not accept the national flag as their own but opposed it. Sir, I failed to understand what was at the back of the minds of those who said so and what was the basis of their holding such a view. Is there any organization in the country which does not accept the tri-colour with Asoka's pillar as the National Flag ? We accept this as our national flag but at the same time feel that just as the Congress party has its own flag with charkha in its centre, the other parties also have a right to work under their own flags. No doubt in the past we have been making sacrifices under the leadership of the Congress Organisation but we accept the tri-colour with Asoka's pillar as our national flag. If a war has to be waged in defence of this flag we will fight in the front-line. That is, however, a different matter. This clause imposes a restriction on those flags under which the peasants and workers were organized and agitation has been going on for years for the protection of tenants' rights. This restriction is sought to be imposed in order to prevent people from organizing themselves. I would request the Government to reconsider this matter.

As regards the red flag, I wish to make it clear that it does not belong to any particular country. It came into existence when the workers all over the world launched struggle for their rights under it. The Kisan Sabha, the Trade Union Congress and other labour organizations carried on their struggle under the red flag. In 1938 there was some controversy about the flags when the Congressites objected to the members of the Communist Party, the Kisan Sabhas and other labour organizations joining the demonstrations and meetings organized by the Congress under their own flags. Those gentlemen who were members of the Congress party at that time should remember that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru issued a circular letter that the peasants' and workers' organizations were entitled to join the Congress meetings under their own flags. When he visited the Punjab in 1939, he gave the message of socialism to the people at a meeting held at Mahilpur under the red flag. Under this clause restriction is going to be imposed on those flags and emblems under which the peasants organized themselves, the labourers carried on agitation for being given employment and struggle has been going on for the stoppage of ejectment of tenants and for securing them their legitimate rights from the landlords.

[Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit]

I may tell the Government that the people have great love and respect for the flag of their organization. The Government should try to bring about ordered development of the State and safeguard the interests of the tenants. It does not behove it to interfere with the working of any organization and impose restrictions on their flags. The administration in the State has not come to a standstill and the Government will act with such highhandedness as not to allow any party to carry its flag which has been giving them inspiration to struggle for their rights and privileges. The Government may, however, take away their flag which is only a piece of cloth but how can it efface the indelible impression that has been created on the public mind. I remember that the British Government has been trying its best to snatch the tri-colour flag from the Congress workers but the Congress made great sacrifices and underwent great sufferings to protect the honour of their flag because they had to make their struggle for independence under this flag. With these words, Sir, I would request the Government to accept my amendment and delete this clause from the Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Motions moved—

That the Clause be deleted.

That in sub-clause (3), line 4, for the words "one year....both" the words "one month" be substituted.

That at the end of sub-clause (1) the following words be added—

"unless it is common to other organisations".

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I am surprised at my hon. Friend for raising an objection that under this clause the Government intends to snatch way the red flag of their party which bears the marks of sickle and hammer. Let me just read out the wording of this clause.

No person shall have in his possession or wear, carry or display any uniform, flag or banner or emblem which has been declared by the State Government by notification in the official Gazette to signify association with any organization declared unlawful by the Government.

It clearly shows that unless any organization is declared unlawful it cannot render itself liable for action. If any organization is declared unlawful and the Government considers its existence as constituting a danger for the State then it may take any action against it. May I ask my hon. Friend whether his party has been declared unlawful by the Government? This Government is earnestly striving for the progress and prosperity of the people and is trying to liberate them from all their ills. The question of confiscation of any party's flag will arise only when that party has been declared unlawful by the Government. My hon. Friend Sardar Harkishen Singh Surjit has remarked that his apprehensions are that the Government intends banning the possession or carrying of a flag under which the labourers have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with each other and made several sacrifices for securing their rights. I am of the view that the country's flag enhances its prestige and dignity and makes it strong. But so long as any organization is not delcared unlawful it need not entertain any fear on this account. Any party may carry the flag of Russia, France, Belgium or any other country: it will not give any offence to the Government. So long as any party which though declared unlawful by the Government and swears by any flag but does not act in a manner prejudicial to the security of the State it will not be proceeded against by the

Government. Again, the Government is not concerned with any particular flag but it has to take action against any party which indulges in unlawful activities. If at any time even the Congress organization is considered to be unlawful it will also come in the grip of this law. From the speech made by my hon. Friend Sardar Harkishen Singh Surjit it appears that he is labouring under some misunderstanding. I would say that he himself has suffered heavily and has undergone great hardships. He must be knowing that Government adopts a very liberal attitude in such matters and is fully conscious of the feelings of the people. I fail to understand why my hon. Friend is obsessed with the idea that the Government would take action against those people who display their flags.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Clause be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (3), line 4, for the words "one year........both" the words "one month" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That at the end of sub-clause (1) the following words be added—

"unless it is common to other organisations".

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Speaker said "I think the Noes have it". This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Speaker after calling upon those Members who challenged his decision and supported the claim a for a Division to rise in their places declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 6

Mr. Speaker: Now Clause 6 is before the House for discussion.

Sardar Darshan Singh (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That in line 5, for the words "two months" the words "one month" be substituted.

That parts (a) and (b) be deleted.

That the Clause be deleted.

[Sardar Darshan Singh]

Sir, this clause seeks to invest the District Magistrates with powers to ban the holding of meetings and demonstrations and carrying of arms at any place for a period of two months. I fail to understand why the Government wants to have this clause passed, when it has already got Section 144 in its armoury to serve the purpose it has in view. Today, there is hardly a district in the Punjab, where orders issued under Section 144 have not been enforced. Danger of the spread of the Praja Parishad agitation is given as the reason for using powers under this section in such a liberal manner but if this were so, the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar would not have imposed a ban on the meetings of progressive democratic parties who have unequivocally expressed their opposition to the Praja Parishad movement. These parties want to see that the people are not misled. The Kisan Sabha wanted to hold a meeting in connection with the 'Abiana Week' but it was not given permission to do so. When it decided to hold a meeting at some place outside the municipal limits, the ban was applied to that place also under Section 144.

I wonder why the opposition parties are not allowed the freedom of speech and expression if as the hon. Chief Minister and the hon. Development Minister often claim, the people are very much pleased with their work. If what they claim is correct, it stands to reason that people will turn a deaf ear to what these parties have got to say. But, in their heart of hearts, they know full well that people are angry with them because they have enhanced the rate of the abiana. They are, therefore, making use of the powers conferred upon them by Section 144 so that the people may not be able to struggle and agitate for the acceptance of their legitimate demands by holding meetings and demonstrations or taking out of processions and thus remain gagged and suppressed and say nothing against their Government. It is just because our Ministers have not the courage to hear criticism levelled against their Government that this provision is being made in this Bill. All the reasons that they have advanced about the necessity of this clause are more or less platitudinous. Sir, the fact of the matter is that they want to suppress the peasants, the tenants and the labourers and the retrenched workers who are agitating and to disrupt the Communist party which is supporting them. In bringing this measure before the House, the Government has no other object in view.

Moreover, elections of Municipal Committees are in the offing. In four towns of District Amritsar, nomination papers are to be filed by 24th April. It appears that the party in power does not want to let the opposition parties propagate their views. Is this democracy? I may, however, assure the hon. Ministers that people will continue to fight for the acceptance of their legitimate demands in spite of the efforts of the Government to suppress and repress them, just as they did in the time of the British rule. If they think they will succeed in gagging them, they are sadly mistaken.

Mr. Speaker: Motions moved—

That in line 5, for the words "two months" the words "one month" be substituted.

That parts (a) and (b) be deleted.

That the Clause be deleted.

Shri Sri Chand (Bhadurgarh) (*Hindi*): Sir, a perusal of this Bill has convinced me that while drafting it several important matters have been overlooked. The practice so far has been to provide for some exceptions while enacting sections in regard to the banning of processions, meetings, etc. It

is amazing that there is not a word in this Clause about not banning processions of a social or religious character. I wonder why the hon. Ministers want to invest the officers with such powers, as may make it impossible for any one to perform a wedding ceremony or some other social function without obtaining their permission. The result of not excepting activities in connection with such functions may well make it difficult for any wedding to take place to which the Sub-Inspector of Police may not have been invited. Surely, celebration of religious functions or taking out of marriage processions cannot be a danger to the security of the State?

I know that the reply to this objection will be that care will be taken to see that these powers are not misused.' This is all right but my fear is that Ministers are so busy and so often on tour that they will not have time even to read the petition of any aggrieved person. If some body happens to displease a Head Constable, no wedding ceremony to which the former is a party will be allowed to be performed. But if any complaint is made in this connection, then completion of enquiry into such a complaint will not take less than two or three months.

I would, therefore, submit that it is necessary that provision should be made in this clause to except religious processions etc.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Bagha Purana) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I do not want to make a lengthy speech on this clause. I wish to say just this much that by providing this clause the Government is strengthening the hands of the police. It goes without saying that the life of the peasant will always be in danger on account of this clause. He always carries with him things like Gandhala (Spade), Kahi and Lathi (Stick). Without these things, it is impossible for him to carry on his agricultural work. Without a big stick, he cannot protect his crops from the wild animals. If the police is inimical towards any peasant, it can at once arrest him on the plea that he was carrying a lathi Gandhala or a spade with which he could inflict serious injuries on anybody. I remember how the police of Bagha Purana harassed a woman and her daughter and son-in-law. The daughther of the woman had reached the motor-stand before the other two. The woman and her son-in-law were coming after her. In the way, the police arrested the son-in-law of the woman without any cause. The woman raised a lot of hue and cry but who cares for crying in a police station? With the passage of this Bill and especially on account of the presence of this clause, the police can arrest anybody it likes on the ground of his carrying a stick, etc. I believe that the Govenment is out to set up a police raj in this way but it will not prove a source of comfort to it in the long run. I request the Government to trust the people with whose votes it has come into power and I assure them that they will not indulge in any subversive activity necessitating the enactment of such law. I would, therefore, submit that either the Government should withdraw the whole of this Bill or at least this clause should be deleted from it.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*): Sir, I had no mind to say anything by way of a reply in regard to this clause. I thought that no speech was called for in this connection. But when my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sri Chand enters the arena, one has to take notice of his speech under all circumstances. He is an able lawyer and he has carefully read Section 144. I would ask him whether it is laid down in Section 144 that religious processions would be excepted.

Shri Sri Chand: It has become a convention.

Chief Minister: Then you admit that it is not written there. I would like to tell him, through you, Sir, that when the officers concerned have to enforce Section 144, they duly take into consideration as to who should be exempted from the application of this section and provide for those exceptions in that order. If the persons who have to enforce this section are regarded as being considerate and wise, the same wise persons will be responsible for the enforcement of this law also. The things for which my hon. Friend has got great regard would, certainly, receive the same regard from those people also and they would take appropriate action in the matter.

If some other hon. Friends of mine had advanced such an argument in regard to Section 144, it would have been a different thing since they have not read the section. But my hon. Friend is a lawyer. He should know that when Section 144 is violated, action is taken under Section 188. According to this section, the offence is non-cognisable and non-bailable. When Section 144 does not serve the purpose, Section 188 is brought into play. But when the conditions become abnormal, recourse will have to be taken to this clause of the Bill which is now under discussion.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in line 5, for the words 'two months' the words "one month" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That parts (a) and (b) be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the clause be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 7

Mr. Speaker: Clause 7 is before the House for discussion.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) Sir, I beg to ask for leave of the House to move the following new sub-clause after Clause 7(12):

"(13) That any action taken under the provisions of this clause and any restriction order passed shall be subject to appeal to Courts of Law."

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to move the new sub-clause?

The leave was refused.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit: Sir, I beg to ask for leave of the House to move the following new sub-clause after Clause 7(12):

"(13). The State Government shall provide for the proper maintenance of the person and his dependants in case his movements are restricted by the State Government or the District Magistrate".

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to move the new sub-clause?

The leave was refused.

Mr. Speaker: I have got notice of many amendments to the various sub-clauses of this clause. Now there are two ways in which these amendments may be moved ; one is that I should take up sub-clause by sub-clause and the other is that all the amendments should be deemed to have been moved. The second method would enable the Members to discuss the clause along with the amendments.

Chief Minister: There is no objection to the adoption of the second method.

Mr. Speaker: Then the following amendments may be deemed to have been moved and the hon. Members can discuss the clause along with the amendments—

That in part (a) of sub-clause (3) for the words "one month" the words "fifteen days" be substituted.

That in part (b) of sub-clause (3) for the words "one year" the words "three months" be substituted.

That in sub-clause (6) lines 4—6, the words "so far as........security of the State" be deleted.

That in sub-clause (9) lines 4-5, the words "or are......appointed as" be deleted.

That in sub-clause (10), line 2, between the words "and" and Sign ", " the following words be inserted :

"after giving an opportunity to the person concerned to represent his case in person before the Advisory Council and"

That for sub-clause (11), the following be substituted :

"(11) The State Government may confirm, modify or cancel the restriction order in accordance with the report of the Advisory Council".

That sub-clause (12) be deleted.

That the Clause be deleted.

That in sub-clause (1), lines 1-2, the words "or a District Magistrate" be deleted.

That part (d) of sub-clause (1) be deleted.

That sub-clause (2) be deleted.

[Mr. Speaker]

That in sub-clause (2), lines 4, the words "with or without sureties" be deleted.

That in sub-clause (8), line 4, for the words "Advisory Council" the word "Board" be substituted.

That for the existing sub-clause (9) the following be substituted :

"(9) That State Government shall constitute a Board consisting of a Chairman who shall be a judge of a High Court and two Members who shall be Members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly."

That in sub-clause (12), lines 4—8, the words "and, notwithstanding........... aforesaid documents" be deleted.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*): Sir, this is the worst clause of the Bill, and it has been brought before us by those people who claim themselves to be Congressmen. This clause closely resembles that clause of the Rowlatt Act under which the movements of any person were liable to be restricted. Not only that. This clause has been copied word for word from the N.W.F.P. Public Tranquillity (Additional Powers) Act, 1932 which was passed in that year by the British to crush the movement for national independence. If I were to read out that clause from that Act, you would find that clause 7 of this Bill is a reproduction of that clause with the exception of the item under which it was provided that if any person were to be interned at a place other than that where he had his source of livelihood, some allowance would be granted for his maintenance. Our own Government which calls itself a national Government has gone a step further so far as repression is concerned. It wants that the children and the families of those who would violate this law should be starved to death. Now I would read out to you Section 5(1) of the N.W.F.P. Public Tranquillity (Additional Powers) Act, 1932 with which Clause 7(1) bears close resemblance. That clause runs as follows—

5. (1) The Local Government, if satisfied that there are reasonable and sufficient grounds for believing that any person has acted, is acting, or is about to act in a manner prejudicial to the public tranquillity or in furtherance of a movement prejudicial to the public tranquillity, may, by order in writing, give any one or more of the following directions, namely, that such person—

(a) shall not enter, reside or remain in any area specified in the order ;

(b) shall reside or remain in any area specified in the order ;

(c) shall remove himself from, and shall not return to any area specified in the order ;

Mr. Speaker, my hon. Friends will recall that when a law of this kind was imposed on the Punjab, there was hardly an Indian against whom that was not made applicable. It is the same law which was used against Mahatma Gandhi when the people of the Punjab invited him to come to their province and see things for himself. At that time Mr. O 'Dwyer stoppped him from entering this province under this law, and it was condemned by the All-India Congress Committee. It is the same law under which Dr. K.M. Ashraf who came for a tour of the Punjab was externed in 1945-46. The Congress Party at that time gave notice of an adjournment motion in the Legislative Assembly in this connection and severely condemned this law. Mr. Speaker, I ask against whom was this law not enforced? God knows what hardships you had to face during your detention? But this law could not damp the spirits of the people of the Punjab. They treated it as a dead letter and marched ahead on the road to independence. This law was condemned not only in the Punjab but in the whole of India. When an allegation was made against Mahatma

The above mentioned amendments stood in the name of Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit, Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut and Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina.

Gandhi that he had applied a match to a heap of gun powder, he replied that if he had applied one match, thousands of matches had been applied by the Rowlatt Act. He added that the people would not feel satisfied unless and until that law was withdrawn. Mr. Speaker, I am, therefore, inclined to say that very awkward arguments have been advanced in support of this Bill and they will not be approved by the people of the Punjab. The people will oppose this Bill and receive it with black flags. A great agitation will be started against it and the Government will rue the moment it thought of passing this Bill. I feel as if some good points of the old law, in case there were any, have been omitted in this Bill. I ask the Government as to what arrangements are to be made for the families of the persons whose movements would be restricted? What is to happen to their children? Should such laws be passed by a democratic Government for the protection of the Constitution? The public is not going to approve of them ; it may fight against them. The Government appears to have copied the black laws introduced in the N.W.F.P. during the British regime word for word. An attempt has been made through this law to crush the voice of the people. I say, why does not the Government hang the people on the trees as and when it likes. What is the good of harassing them by restrictions? It would be better if they are hanged right away. I may here sound a note of warning to the Government and it is this that if it continues to pass laws for purposes of harassing the people by putting retstrictions on them, the people will rise and smash not only such laws but even their framers.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City, North-West) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, my hon. Friend Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit while speaking on this clause referred to a Regulation of the N.W.F.Province and remarked that the Government which is imposing restrictions on the public today would meet the fate of the old British regime. I have not been able to follow his fears. This Clause only imposes restrictions on persons who may try to change the Government and the Constitution by violent means. Persons who believe in parliamentary and democratic methods need not entertain any fears. Of course, those of our friends who are bent on using unconstitutional means will come within the purview of this Bill but then they should have no complaint. I ask my brethren to tell us whether or not they wish that law should prevail in the Punjab ? At many places people have been persuaded not to pay rent and take possession of lands irrespective of the fact whether Jagirdari is abolished or not. In a village near Nawanshahr in District Jullundur, people were coerced at the time of the Panchayat elections to vote for the Communists and those who did not see eye to eye with them, were badly harassed till they were rescued by the Police.

Mr. Speaker, what I mean is that if these people follow a disruptionist policy Government has every justification to pass these measures. Their workers are making propaganda at various places in the State. In this connection it would not be out of place to mention here that recently in Kangra District they went to the extent of even threatening the people that if they did not cast their votes in favour of the Communist Party they would have to face bloodshed. Their slogans are still ringing in my ears. They always believe in destructive policy so much so that when famine visited our State they were instigating people to burn the fodder and the fields. Now this Act is in force for the last four years and Government has not misused it during this period. My hon. Friends cannot quote even a single case in which the Government has unlawfully detained a person. It has not curtailed any individual's civil

[Shri Ram Krishan]
liberty. I assure them that Government would make a proper use of its powers in future, too. Only those who violate law would come within the ambit of this Act. Mr. Speaker, we will have to observe every precaution in order to stabilize the newly born democracy in our country and if any person would try to undermine the administration or disrupt the Governmental machinery recourse will have to be taken to such measures.

Mr. Speaker, two ideologies viz., establishment of democracy on the basis of Secularism and Dictatorship on the basis of Communism, are coming into conflict with each other at present in our country. My hon Friends like to bring about dictatorship whereas we are not in its favour because it is harmful for the individual freedom. It aims at encroaching upon the fundamental right of every citizen but we want to uphold the individual freedom. Under the circumstances, I would like to submit that the present Bill should be enacted into law and it will be enforced, if need be.

Shri Mool Chand Jain (Sambhalka) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, the hon. Members who have opposed this Bill have repeated the old arguments. They have compared it with the Frontier and the Rowlatt Acts. I would like to ask them if the facilities provided in Clause No. 7 and 8 of this Bill were also afforded in those Acts. Did those Acts have a provision that the State Government shall constitute an Advisory Council consisting of a Chairman and two other members, all of whom shall be persons who are qualified to be appointed as Judges of a High Court for submitting a report ? It was clearly laid down in those Acts that no person could even engage a counsel or prefer an appeal against the decision of the Government whereas in this Bill certain actions have been declared as offences which would be tried by the District Magistrate. Then, if any person is not satisfied with the decision of the District Magistrate he has been given the right to go to the Court of the Sessions Judge against it and afterwards to the High Court. As a matter of fact, the hon. Members sitting Opposite are unnecessarily trying to instigate the public by comparing this Bill with the Rowlatt Act.

Then, Sir, about the 'Fatherland' to which they are so proudly referring time and again only recently according to the newspapers released the distinguished doctors who were kept under detention and declared criminals. Moreover, I may point out that Russia is no doubt a free country but restrictions imposed there on the civil liberties are too many, which perhaps do not exist in any other country of the world. Our Government wants to get these powers for use only at the time of emergency.

Then, Sir, I would like to submit that they had full liberty to fight elections in the Kangra District and they made every sort of propaganda there. May I ask if the public had a right of changing the Government during the days of the Rowlatt Act also ? Now-a-days the Communist Party and every other party has a right to contest elections against the Congress Party but if any individual or any party wants to indulge in any activity prejudicial to the security of the State or the maintenance of public order then it becomes imperative for those who run the Government to impose strict restrictions on them. I do want the imposition of such restrictions on this element and hence support this clause.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, it has been stated by some of my hon. Friends that they want to protect Democracy and, therefore, they have introduced this Bill whereas I have to submit that it is

all due to the evil effect of democratic and parliamentary systems of Government that they are obliged to cast aspersions on other people. And, perhaps that is why, by the imposition of restrictions they are trying to suppress the fundamental rights of the citi7ens of this State. In my opinion, they have bitter experience of democracy which has shattered their faith in it. They are compelled to introduce such Bills simply to cover their misdeeds and disappointments. They are adopting various means to encroach upon the civil liberty of the people. This Clause seeks to remove any person from. and prevent him from entering into any area that may be specified in the order. and thereby make him die of starvation.

I submit, Sir, that if hon. Members sitting on the Treasury benches had faced such difficulties and hardships they would have neither raised their hands so readily nor tried to taunt us as they are doing. Then they would have been in a position to feel what it means to be deprived of civil liberties. This provision of restricting the movements of a person to a certain area was also contained in a previous measure called the Public Safety Act. But that Act was challenged in the Supreme Court which rejected it as *ultra vires* of the Constitution. Moreover, all the democratic forces raised their concerted voice against that measure demanding that when such restrictions are imposed on the freedom of any person he should, at least, be informed of the charges on the basis of which that action was being taken. The legislation now before the House also does not contain any provision to that effect, namely, that when a man is detained he will be apprised of the charges against him. It may be stated that even our Parliament did not pass a measure containing such harsh provisions for restricting people's movement and such measures have been declared null and void by the Supreme Court and a number of High Courts. We are simply at a loss to understand why our friends are feeling the necessity of enacting a law of this nature. Sir, when we were arrested by the Bhargava Ministry, it was said that we were collecting arms and wanted to bring about a revolution in the country. I was charged with the intention of blowing off the Bhakra Dam although even the walls of the Dam had not been raised at the time. May I ask my friends whether they will be serving the cause of democracy by restricting the movements of a person and turning him out of a certain area even without informing him of the cause of this drastic action ? I am strongly of the opinion that this procedure would rather cut at the very root of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, letters and reports have been read out here alleging that we are organising guerilla forces. The hon. Chief Minister has been pleased to read out a baseless and fantastic report in the House and has declared that he has been compelled to bring forward this provision on account of the situation revealed in that report. May I ask him if this clause is not akin to the provisions of the Rowlatt Act ? I would rather say that this clause is much more stringent than the Rowlatt Act and the Frontier Regulations Act. Many of the hon. Members sitting on the Treasury benches have never been in jail and still they claim the credit of having fought for the attainment i of independence. I may point out to them that we have been to jail too and that the credit for the attainment of independence belongs to all those people who fought against the British Imperialism. The report read out by the Chef Minister is as incorrect and misleading as such reports made by their officers are usually found to be. I may inform the House in this connection that when I preferred an appeal to the Supreme Court from behind the bars for permission to fight election to the Assembly it was said on behalf of the

[Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut]

Punjab Government that I was a very dangerous man and that anything might happen if I were allowed to come out of the jail. Hundreds of people were kept in jails for three or four years without informing them of the charges against them. These things go to prove that our Government has drifted away from the people and wants to put an end to all civil liberties. Their actions would convince everyone that they have forfeited the confidence of the public.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I have today heard my friends of the Opposition make a reference to Gandhiji and democracy. Now we have to see whether these hon. Gentlemen who have quoted Mahatma Gandhi in this House have any love and respect for the principles of the Mahatma. May I ask them whether anyone can even speak of democracy in the country from which they get their inspiration? Is the policy of that country based on non-violence of Mahatma Gandhi to which they referred? Again, they have said that this party has forfeited the confidence of the people. Let me tell them that even today we are getting a flood of telegrams from the General Telegraph Office conveying congratulations of the people who voted for the Congress candidate in the bye-election in Kangra and thus contributed towards his success. I think, Sir, that it is a joke on the part of my hon. Friends even to talk of public confidence. They are posing as defenders of democracy. But may I ask them if any other political party has been allowed to flourish in Russia after the 1917 Revolution ? When my hon. Friend was in the Yol camp I asked him jokingly whether they would mete out similar good treatment and give similar sumptuous allowances to the prisoners belonging to a party opposed to them. The reply was that they would not be able to spare anything more than a cartridge worth 12 annas which should suffice to put an end to the life of such a prisoner. What a shameful reply! They have said that the laws enacted and the various taxes imposed by the Government have resulted in the Chief Minister being greeted with black flags at Ludhiana. I would just ask them whether ten goondas are not enough to create confusion in a gathering of ten thousand decent persons.

Some Hon. Members : Please withdraw the word " goonda ".

Mr. Speaker : It does not look proper for the Chief Parliamentary Secretary to use such unparliamentary language. He should withdraw the word ' goonda ".

Shri Prabodh Chandra: I withdraw the word, Sir. I only meant to say that it is not impossible for ten persons to disturb an assembly of ten thousand. One can always get some hirelings of this kind on payment of Rs 10 to 20 each. If my Friends want to be sure of the actual position with regard to public confidence here is my challenge to them. I am prepared to resign my seat in the House and let them come forward to contest with me any seat in the Punjab. It is not very nice to throw challenges on the floor of the House but when some one indulges in a challenge of this kind we cannot but accept it. Have they not received a convincing reply from the Kangra valley with regard to the confidence of the people ? You know, Sir, that the notice of the Security of the State Bill had already been given when that bye-election took place and the provision regarding the powers of the Government to detain any one was there too. If they are still anxious to measure strength with us let them accept my challenge and contest any seat with me. I shall be prepared to get the issue decided even in the Nakodar constituency which they won by a majority of seven thousand votes.

Sir, I wonder why these hon. Members talk like women. I wonder why they talk from behind the curtain. Why do they not come forward and express their views undauntedly? It is the main characteristic of a bold and courageous man to meet his opponent squarely in the field where he is either to lay down life or do away with his enemy. I fail to understand why these people unscrupulously utilise this august House to hurl allegations at the door of those patriots who have immense sacrifices to their credit.

Besides, they have enquired the number of such Congressmen who courted arrests and underwent various terms of imprisonment. With your permission, Sir, I would like to inform them that such people also adorn the ranks of the Congress Party who went to Jails as many as eighteen times and were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment eachime. But unlike them, they never put in a demand to the Government to tprovide them with two seers of milk every day. It is argued as to what kind of patriots these Congressmen are and what sacrifices they have made. Let me tell them that these are the real patriots of India. They are, of course, not the patriots of Russia who are wedded to an ideology and policy of achieving their end by violent means. Sir, since I have dwelt upon the question of their policy, I wish to tell you as to what they exactly are. They have always beenregarding the enemy of their own foe to be their friend. Russia was our frien d when the English were opposed to them. But when Britain resolved her differences with them and was on friendly terms with them they became our foes. Now they have begun applying their tactics in India, as well. In the year 1921, when the Communist Party was first established in India they decided in a conference held at Calcutta to avail of the existing political parties with a view to furthering their own programme and policies. Since the Congress was the main centre of public opinion at that time, they decided to join its ranks and further their political ends. What were, after all, those cherished ends? They were to promote Russian interests in India.

Mr. Speaker: Please confine your remarks to the motion before the House and refrain from indulging in party criticism.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Sir, what I wish to submit is this let the gentlemen, who in the name of the masses, democracy and God raise protests against the enactment of this law, go to the telegraphs office of Simla and convince themselves of the confidence that the Government enjoys with the masses. Let them go to the valley of Kangra where they employed all means, direct or indirect, to mislead the people, and see how the masses hold the Congress in their esteem. From this they should decide which principle it is they wish adopted and what flag it is they like hoisted throughout the country? There is no denying the fact that the masses are sensible enough and have refused to be led away by their slogans. They have reposed their confidence in the Congress ideologies and programmes. I am confident that my hon Friends dare not refute this solid truth. I know that it is easy to indulge in tall talk but extremely difficult to act upon principles.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the hon. Member to wind up his speech.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Very well, Sir. I feel that it is the duty of all the Members of this august House to live up to their professions and principles. I would, however, request my hon. Friends to shed false notions about us.

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]
They should not make appeals to us in the name of the patriots, masses and the like because persons who are not wedded to the interests of the masses have no right to associate themselves with the name of the patriots. They have no business to tarnish the fair name of the patriots by making a mention of their own treacherous deeds.

Shrimati Sita Devi: On a point of order. Sir. May I know whether the observation made by the Chief Whip with regard to the women is parliamentary? I resent that remark very much and he should withdraw it. (*Interruptions*) I am raising this point of order very seriously. I urge upon the Chair to call upon the hon. Member to withdraw that remark.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Lady Member wish that no reference to women be made in any case?

Shri Mool Chand Jain: Perhaps she considers the disputed remark as an insult to womanhood.

Mr. Speaker: Well, I may point out to the House that the trend that has been given to the debate today does not become the dignity of the House. I have been pained to find that the tone and the level of the debate have not been high. Challenges and counter-challenges should be avoided because these are all superfluous things in a debate and arouse passions on both sides. I would request the hon. Members to abstain from making such observations as are likely to hurt the feelings or sentiments of others. Besides, the use of harsh words is not the only way to refute charges. Now a majority of the hon. Members is at fault because in one way or another they make observations derogatory to the honour of the Chair and prestige of the House. In the circumstances, without naming any particular hon. Member, I would urge upon all the Members to kindly express their views in an atmosphere of perfect harmony, peace and amity. Arguments should be refuted with cogent reasons. To become sentimental and then pass undesirable remarks upon others neither behoves them nor is it in keeping with the dignity and prestige of the House. I am confident that in future they will bear this in mind and do not compel me to make such remarks.

Chief Minister : On a point of Order, Sir. I would not have liked to say anything in this connection but since the Chair has been pleased to make some general observations in regard to the level of the debate, I think as the Leader of the House I have the privilege to make a submission to the Chair and it is that if a Member, in the opinion of the Chair, is not behaving in a proper manner, then I would very respectfully submit that instead of making general remarks which may be taken to be applicable to perhaps more than one person and even to those who may not be within the view of the Chair, it would perhaps be better that that particular Member is called to order or some other suitable action is taken against him specifically. I am making this submission because the Chair has made these remarks in the House and these are likely to be interpreted outside in a very different manner. Otherwise, if the Chair had been kind enough to send for me or for any one in his office room and give a bit of exhortation or advice, we would certainly have done our best to act on that advice. Sir, you will no doubt appreciate that when remarks of a general nature are made by the Chair, they are likely to be interpreted as applicable to all the Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker. I am very much amused as well as interested at what the Chief Minister has said. What I meant was that the general trend of the debate had not been kept at the high level at which a responsible House composed of hon. Members should have kept it. I did not make any remark in connection with what one hon. Member or another said. Even after listening to the Chief Minister, I am sorry to say that I cannot change my opinion that the trend of the debate has not been kept at a high level. I really did not mean to offend any hon. Member. I made that observation because I wanted the hon. Members to keep up the dignity of the House.

I very much apologise if I have hurt any Member's feeling because when I made that observation I did not have in mind any particular Member or any Party. What I said was that the general trend of the debate had not been kept at a high level.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*): Sir, with regard to the provisions embodied in sub-clauses 8,9,10,11 and 12 our hon. Friend who is a lawyer of a long standing, has opined that the said sub-clauses have been incorporated for the benefit of and with a view to providing facilities to the people whose movements are to be restricted. I think perhaps the hon. Member forgot that he was speaking in this House in the second half of the twentieth century when a great awakening has come over the world. These provisions clearly indicate that in the first place, restrictions will be imposed on the people, then their representations will be referred to an Advisory Committee consisting of Judges of the High Court. I think that all the provisions contained in these sub-clauses are nothing but a farce. My lawyer friend who spoke some time back knows that we are in favour of the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive but it would be noticed that under this clause the authority of the Judges has been subordinated to that of the executive. What are the functions of the Advisory Committee of which Judges are appointed as members? The whole case is placeed before that Committee but its decision is not binding on the executive. Generally, the retired Sessions Judges are appointed to do this work. They think that so long as they get one thousand rupees per mensem they need not bother about the number of persons detained under this law. In most of the cases these gentlemen approve of the action taken by the Government.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should not show any disrespect to the Judges.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina: Sir, I do not mean disrespect to any Judge. What I was submitting was that a Judge could not act freely if he was under the Executive. If it is laid down that the finding of the Advisory Committee would be final that would mean something. In the clause as it stands it is provided that—

> After considering the report of the Advisory Council, the State Government may confirm, modify or cancel the restriction order.

In the presence of this provision the appointment of Judges as members of these Councils would mean nothing. I have proposed that one High Court Judge and two members of the Assembly should be appointed as members of this body. The Government may appoint two members of its own party to serve on this Council but its decision should be binding and final. Those M.L.As. would be in a position to tell the public why the movements of a particular person have been restricted. If this amendment is accepted there would be some safeguard for the people, otherwise the Advisory Board would only be a farce.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, the hon. Members have given expression to their views on the clause under discussion. The main argument advanced by them was that this clause had been reproduced *verbatim* from another Act. As a matter of fact I have never claimed that we do not use the English words employed in some other enactments nor do I say that we do not make use of other Acts which serve our requirements. There was no weight in the argument of my friends on this score. We should look into the meaning of the words used here and the manner in which this law is going to be applied. To say that for restricting the movements of a person the words ' if a person acts in such manner, he can be restricted' should not be used, simply amazes me. It will be conceded by all that the Government should have the power of restricting the movements of a person if necessary but we have to see if the necessary safeguards have been provided in this Bill. If a District Magistrate passes any order under this law he has to send a report about it immediately to the Government which has further to decide whether that order should be confirmed or not. If it is decided to restrict the movements of a certain person, the Advisory Council with persons of the rank of High Court Judges as its members are there to review the case. We are not bound to appoint a High Court Judge for this work but I want to tell the hon. Members that we have made provision for the appointment of a Judge as a member of the Advisory Council who is reputed for independence of judgment. Nobody has any doubt about the independence of decisions given by him. Are my friends not aware of the fact that the Government detained some persons but the Advisory Council held that their detention was not proper? My friends say that this Council will serve no useful purpose because it is provided here that the State Government may confirm, modify or cancel the restriction order. With your permission, Sir, I beg to submit that it would have been better if my learned friends had carefully studied this clause. If the Advisory Council approves of the order passed by the Government, the latter confirms it but if it holds that it is not justified the Government has got to cancel it. If the Advisory Council is of the view that the order may stand with certain modifications, it is modified accordingly. We do not act against the decision of this Council. If there is any misunderstanding on this point, I wish to make it clear that we never go against the findings of the Advisory Council.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take the House into confidence and to explain how the Government acts when it wants to suppress some movement. First of all, the general policy on the matter is laid down. Before deciding the policy all the factors are considered in detail. I want to assure the hon. Members that this task is not left to the District Magistrates. The police officers are not at liberty to detain any person they like. The Government has issued instructions that if extraordinary conditions exist in the State and it becomes necessary to make use of the provisions of this law, then permission for this must be obtained before taking action against any person.

I cannot give any more assurance than this. If my hon. Friends have no confidence in the Government then I cannot help it. The hon. Members may believe it or not, it is our duty to work honestly. I may assure my hon. Friends that it never gives me any pleasure to put people behind the bars. The House is aware that as soon as I assumed the reins of office I released all the detenus, who included Communists, Akalis and R.S.S. Workers. I released them because I believe in the method of discussion. My Akali friends say that they have their grievance and I would ask them to come to me and discuss the matters with me. My hon. Friend opposite is always voicing

/the grievances of the Akali party but the fact of the matter is that when there is nothing to criticise the Government my friends over there trump up some arguments to malign it. If my hon. Friend has really the welfare of the State at heart and wants its Government to be run on progressive lines, then he is welcome to discuss such matters with an open mind. It should not be difficult for him to find an opportunity of seeing me. I would ask him to see me leaving aside such ideas. Being an Akali if he has any complaint that discriminatory treatment is being accorded to the Sikhs belonging to the depressed classes or if he has any complaint over the language question or about the share of Sikhs in Government services, I have already expressed my views on these subjects and I may assure him that I am always prepared to discuss these matters with him. I am always prepared to have full and frank discussion to remove any misgivings which may be exercising the mind of my hon. Friend. I think that if we do not adopt the way of mutual consultation it is difficult to remove misunderstandings. This law is for those people who want to follow the opposite way and would be equally applicable to us if at any time we go astray. So far as this clause is concerned, I think that I have amply clarified the policy of the Government in this behalf and I hope that my friends would now feel satisfied about its retention in the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in part (a) of sub-clause (3) for the words " one month " the words " fifteen days " be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in part (b) of sub-clause (3) for the words " one year" the words " three months " be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (6) lines 4—6, the words "so far as........security of the State" be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (9) lines 4-5, the words " or are........appointed as " be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (10), line 2, between the word " and " and " sign, " the following words be inserted :

" after giving an opportunity to the person concerned to represent his case in person before the Advisory Council and "

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That for sub-clause (11), the following be substituted :

"(11) The State Government may confirm, modify or cancel the restriction order in accordance with the report of the Advisory Council".

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That sub-clause (12) be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Clause be deleted.

The Assembly then divided.

Ayes : 11

Noes : 65

The motion was declared lost

NOES

1. Abdul Ghani Dar, Shri.
2. Abhai Singh, Shri.
3. Babu Dayal, Shri.
4. Baloo Ram, Shri.
5. Balwant Singh, Sardar.
6. Benarsi Dass Gupta, Mahashe.
7. Bhim Sen Sachar, Shri.
8. Chandi Ram Varma, Shri.
9. Chuni Lal, Shri.
10. Darbara Singh, Sardar.
11. Daulat Ram, Shri.
12. Daulat Ram Sharma, Shri.
13. D.D. Puri, Shri.
14. Dev Raj Anand, Shri.
15. Dharam Vir Vasisht, Shri.
16. Gajraj Singh, Rao.
17. Gopi Chand, Shri.
18. Goran Dass Hans, Bhagat.
19. Gurbachan Singh Attawal, Sardar.
20. Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, Sardar.
21. Gurbanta Singh, Master.
22. Gurdial Singh, Sardar.
23. Gurdial Singh Dhillon, Sardar.
24. Harbhajan Singh, Principal.
25. Hari Ram, Shri.
26. Hari Singh, Sardar.
27. Harnam Singh Sethi, Shri.

28. Jagat Ram Bhardwaj, Shri.
29. Jagdish Chand, Shri.
30. Jagdish Chandra, Shri.
31. Joginder Singh, Sardar.
32. Kanhaya Lal Butail, Shri.
33. Kartar Singh, Sardar.
34. Kasturi Lal Goel, Shri.
35. Khem Singh, Sardar.
36. Khushi Ram Gupta, Shri.
37. Kedar Nath Saigal, Shri.
38. Lajpat Rai, Shri.
39. Mam Chand, Shri.
40. Mam Raj, Shri.
41. Mool Chand Jain, Shri.
42. Nand Lal, Shri.
43. Nanhu Ram, Shri.
44. Narinjan Dass Dhiman, Shri.
45. Parkash Kaur, Shrimati.
46. Partap Singh Bakshi, Shri.
47. Partap Singh Kairon, Sardar.
48. Prabodh Chandra, Shri.
49. Raghuvir Singh, Rai.
50. Rajinder Singh Giani, Sardar.
51. Rala Ram, Shri.
52. Ram Kishan, Shri.
53. Ram Kumar Bidhat, Shri.
54. Ram Sarup, Shri.
55. Ranjit Singh, Capt.
56. Sadhu Ram, Shri.
57. Samar Singh, Shri.
58. Sarup Singh, Shri.
59. Sher Singh, Shri.
60. Shib Singh, Sardar.
61. Sita Devi, Shrimati.
62. Sohan Singh, Sardar.
63. Teg Ram Shri.
64. Uttam Singh, Sardar.
65. Waryam Singh, Sardar (Amritsar).

AYES.

1. Achhar Singh, Chhina, Sardar.
2. Bachan Singh, Sardar.
3. Chanan Singh, Sardar.
4. Darshan Singh, Sardar.
5. Harkishan Singh, Sardar.
6. Iqbal Singh, Principal.
7. Karnail Singh Sidhu, Sardar.
8. Nidhan Singh, Sardar.
9. Partap Singh, Master.
10. Sri Chand, Shri.
11. Wadhawa Ram, Shri.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (1), line 12, the words "or a District Magistrate" be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That part (d) of sub-clause (1) be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That sub-clause (2) be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (2), line 4, the words " with or without sureties " be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (8), line 4, for the words " Advisory Council " the word " Board " be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That for the existing sub-clause (9) the following be substituted :

" (9) That State Government shall constitute a Board consisting of a Chairman who shall be a judge of a High Court and two Members who shall be Members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (12), lines 4-8, the words " and, notwithstanding............ aforesaid documents " be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is :

That Clause 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 8

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Clause be deleted.

Sir, it is said that we mention Rowlatt Act again and again. But we are forced to do so. This Clause is a close copy of Section 22 of that black Act. Sir, that Rowlatt Act for the repeal of which the Punjab mostly made sacrifices and for which purpose an agitation was launched throughout the country is being imposed in a new shape once again on the people by our Government. I submit that it does not become a free and democratic State like ours to pass such a law. Such things are done by those imperialist countries which want to keep other countries under subjugation. To pass such a Bill is not proper for us. It violates the dignity of a free country like ours.

Sir, under the pretext of the Sea Customs Act of 1878, restriction has been imposed under this clause on any literature coming from abroad. This law suited the British Government which did not want that the people of India should read progressive literature of other free countries of the world. But it is amazing that our Government wants to impose in this age of freedom the same old restrictions under this clause on the people of this free country, whereby no literature of progressive views could be imported from outside.

Mr. Speaker, what surprises me most is that the American literature can find its way in this State. During the Kangra election three advertisements were published by the American Agency to canvass votes for the Congress. Obviously, restriction of any kind is placed on literature which proves helpful to the Government and is welcome in any quantity. But literature which is not palatable to the Government is not allowed to come into the State. I can prove that American literature was distributed and that laws are made for our consumption only. If the Government party is not prepared to observe the law itself, why should it harass the other parties ? Why should we be asked not to distribute our literature? Mr. Speaker, on the one hand we are asked not to follow a country where dictatorship prevails but on the other that very country is praised by the leader of the Congress Party and the Ambassador of India. They admit that people of that country are free. I think the Congressites of this State talk in this strain only to get this Bill passed and to impose restrictions on the public. The British tried their level best to crush the national movement but they did not succeed. Even now it cannot be crushed or killed. No doubt, we have got the political freedom but the economic freedom is yet to come and the people are striving for it. One party cannot rule for ever. The British exerted their utmost to crush the freedom movement but they could not do so and this Government is also not likely to succeed in its designs even if it imposes thousands of restrictions on the people. It is strange to find that the addressee of an objectionable letter can be sentenced to imprisonment for a year. If a person is to be removed from the Army, some objectionable literature can be sent to him. He will not only be removed from service but also sentenced to imprisonment. Is this freedom ? Is this the way of getting confidence of the public ? I say it is nothing short of high-handedness. Such things are happening in Malaya. The Governments which are given to such ways should read the writing on the wall. I submit that no country or nation can progress in this manner.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the clause be deleted.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That in sub-clause (1), line 9, between the words "shall" and "be" the following words be inserted :
"unless he proves that he was unaware of the nature of the document."
That in sub-clause (1), lines 10-11, for the words "one year........both" the words "one month" be substituted.
That in sub-clause (2) lines 7-8, for the words "one year,..........with both" the words "one month" be substituted.

Sir, the Government wishes to impose certain restrictions on the people through the Clause which is now before us. When the country was not free, a Ghaddar Party was formed and it used to publish a paper called the Ghaddar Newspaper. A few copies of this paper used to be sent to the *Babas,* who are now regarded by us as patriots, without their knowledge and they were arrested. The innocent people were punished. Here I shall give a little of my personal experience. In 1945, one Sardar Balwant Singh who later died as the result of a motor-cycle accident made a conspiracy with the Police for effecting my arrest. A letter was got sent to me with the result that I was given three months' imprisonment in addition to one and a half year's detention. I was absolutely innocent. The C.I.D. had arranged the despatch of the letter. So, Mr. Speaker, I think that this Clause will be used to punish the innocent people.

My friends sitting on the Government benches have spoken very highly of their own sacrifices. I may be allowed to say that not to talk of grinding 18 seers of corn, many of them used to feign illness and pass their time in the hospitals. Those who had been grinding the corn are sitting on this side of the House. So far as the other side is concerned, I am in a position to say that barring a few individuals the sacrifices of all of them pale into insignificance before the sacrifices made by any one of the Members of this side. I very well remember how a Congressite apologized with folded hands when he got a slap from an Englishman at the time of the Khalsa College strike. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. No such remarks, please.

Shri Wadhawa Ram : Sir, I am only replying to what has been said by my hon. Friends. Any how, I am to submit that these laws are being passed to crush the Opposition and suppress the people. Don't we have such laws already in plenty ? Mention has been made of Kangra. My friends appear to have forgotten so soon how they coerced the people to cast votes in their favour. Is it not a fact that a threat was held out to the people that they would be starved if they did not vote for the Congress ? (*Interruptions*). Sir, I won't say much but would say before I finish that it is a very harmful clause. If it is not possible to withdraw it, then amendments suggested by me should at least be accepted.

Mr. Speaker : Motions moved—

That in sub-clause (1), line 9, between the words "shall" and "be" the following words be inserted :
"unless he proves that he was unaware of the nature of the document."
That in sub-clause (1), lines 10-11, for the words "one year........both" the words "one month" be substituted.
That in sub-clause (2) lines 7-8, for the words "one year,..........with both" the words "one month" be substituted.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, my hon. Friend Shri Wadhawa Ram has stated that the workers of the Congress Party had made speeches in the Kangra District threatening the people with starvation to death if they did not cast their votes in favour of the Congress candidate. I am constrained to remark that he has considered us as insane as he himself is. Sir, as you know, at the time of polling the people keep their votes in their own hands and put them independently in a sealed box called the ballot box. The ballot boxes indicating symbols of various political parties are kept in a room where none else except the voter is permitted to enter to cast his vote in a box of his own choice. And if even in spite of all these precautions it is alleged that the Congress Workers threatened the public with starvation it can only be the result of that insanity which my hon. Friend has inherited, and this fact holds true in the case of Shri Wadhawa Ram. They claim to be the supporters of the movement of independence whereas we say that the independence has been attained and the peoples' own Government has been established in the country. Sardar Harkishan Singh has remarked that his party respects our national flag but another hon. Member of his party has stressed that they are still carrying on the movement of independence. I would request them to sit together and find how much they differ in their views from each other.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : It is one and the same thing.

Minister for Development : Had it been one and the same thing, my hon. Friend would not have been made to sit in the back row. What I mean to submit is that independence has been achieved and peoples' own Government has been established. If the hon. Members have to work under the mandates of foreign countries our Government shall have to take action against their unlawful activities. Sir, sometimes I feel like giving no reply to their speeches so that the hon. Members may realise how meaningless, vague and valueless their speeches are. With these words I resume my seat and refrain from replying to the vague points raised by him in his speech.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Clause be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in sub-clause (1), line 9, between the words "shall" and "be" the following words be inserted :

"unless he proves that he was unaware of the nature of the document."

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in sub-clause (1), lines 10-11, for the words "one year.......both" the words "one month" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in sub-clause (2) lines 7-8, for the words " one year........with both " the words " one month " be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 9

Sardar Harkishen Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That part (b) be deleted.

That in line 7, the words " statement, rumour or report " be deleted.

That in lines 8-9, the words " friendly relations with foreign States ", be deleted.

That in lines 9-10, the words " decency or morality " be deleted.

That in lines 11-12, the words " or incitement to an offence, or tends to overthrow the State " be deleted.

That in lines 13-14, for the words " three years or with fine or with both " the words " one month " be substituted.

That in lines 10-11, the words " or is in relation to........an offence " be deleted.

Mr. Speaker, it would have been better if the Chief Minister himself had listened to our speeches as it is he who has introduced the present Bill. I find that there is a lot of difference between his opinion and that of the Development Minister. The Chief Minister is of the opinion that this Bill has been specially drafted for the Communists whereas the Development Minister disagrees with his view. How I wish that the Chief Minister had listened to my speech so that after knowing the real facts he could decide for whom this Bill had been introduced. He said, ' Let the Bill be enacted into law and then the people so affected would improve themselves whether they are Akalis or the Communists." Sir, I would like to submit that there is no anarchy or chaos prevailing in the State and if at all he apprehends some danger he should let us know. We would sit together, have a heart to heart talk and decide the matter. If any conspiracy or design against the Government is a foot we would certainly help him in frustrating the same in order to ensure security of the State.

Mr. Speaker, some days back when the Administrator, Pepsu, visited this State he asked as to what was the opinion of the Communist Party in regard to the position of law and order in the State. I replied to him that the position of law and order in the State was in fact unsatisfactory. At the same time, I assured him of our full co-operation and as a matter of fact I helped him in arresting such dangerous dacoits whom even the Police had failed to apprehend so far. I placed those persons before the Administrator with the request that they should not be handed over to the Police but may be tried in a court of law. If they are proved guilty they may be awarded punishment. I had brought nine such persons to Mr. Rau, who were wanted to stand trials in murder cases

Mr. Rau very kindly sent them to a judicial lock-up. What I mean to say is there is no necessity of passing this Bill into law as it would further deteriorate the position of law and order. If making of a small gesture or spreading of a rumour is considered to be a serious crime then it means that the Government is out to stifle the voice of the people or even of the Press. If a newspaper publishes any wrong news it can be punished after a trial in a court of law.

Then, Sir, they can institute prosecutions against the Press. We know of two or three such cases. May I ask them why the Press is being strangled ?

A mention has been made of Foreign Relations. My submission is that our Chief Minister is playing havoc with our Foreign Relations. You know, Sir, that we have very cordial relations with China. But he is trying to estrange that country and lose her friendship. Since America has refused to recognise Communist China, the Government of India has been expressing its opinion about the desirability of recognition being accorded to that country by U.S.A. Again, Shrimati Vijaylakshmi Pandit and so many other notables from India who visited China have spoken very highly of the present state of affairs in that country. But our Chief Minister has declared in this House that China is hatching some conspiracy against India. Just look at such a responsible person making such a statement in the House ! I submit, Sir, that I am not indulging in any wild talk. It is there on the record. Such remarks cannot be expected to improve our relations with foreign countries. While our worthy Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has so many times spoken very highly of the Soviet Union, the Chief Minister of our own State cannot tolerate even a mention of that country. Our Vice-President, Shri Radhakrishnan, Shri J.C. Kumarappa and Pandit Sunder Lal have visited Russia and spent some time in that country. The last-named gentleman has written a book in which it is stated that no restrictions on religious beliefs exist in Russia and that the people enjoy full democratic rights and civil liberties. What these respected gentlemen have written must be correct because they wrote what they saw with their own eyes. Surely, these venerable persons cannot be expected to make wrong statements. But we find here that our Chief Minister who never speaks a word against America is always carrying on propaganda against Russia and China. That is why I say that my hon. Friends speak with mental reservations. Our respcted Vice-President, Shri Radhakrishnan and Shri J.C. Kumarappa are considered to be authorities on Soviet Russia and her affairs.

In the end, I would appeal to the Government not to place such restrictions on the Press as have the effect of gagging it. They say that the measure under consideration has been brought forward in order to improve the situation in respect of law and order. But I submit that this is not the way to achieve that object. On the contrary, I think this law will bring about further deterioration of the situation and all of us will have to face its dire consequences.

Mr. Speaker : Motions moved—

That part (b) be deleted.

That in line 7, the words "statement, rumour or report" be deleted.

That in lines 8-9, the words "friendly relations with foreign States", be deleted.

[Mr. Speaker]

That in lines 9-10, the words "decency or morality" be deleted.

That in lines 11-12, the words "or incitement to an offence, or tends to overthrow the State" be deleted.

That in lines 13-14, for the words "three years or with fine or with both" the words "one month" be substituted.

That in lines 10-11, the words "or is in relation to....an offence" be deleted

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, my hon. Friend, while opposing this clause asked the Government to take him into confidence and tell him what his party had done which was considered objectionable. Only yesterday I told the House how these gentlemen staged a play in Kangra during the bye-election in connection with their party's propaganda. In that play they presented Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru indulging in drinks and it was made out that the interests of the whole nation were being sacrificed for the sake of Lady Mountbatten. My submission is that we should learn a lesson from history. You know, Sir, that when our country was blessed with a personality like Maharana Pratap we had a Raja Man Singh also. Similarly there was Raja Jaichand during the period when Maharaja Prithvi Raj was adorning the throne of Delhi. This historical fact should not be lost sight of. We know that certain foreign Governments invite certain people from our country on behalf of Trade Unions or in the name of World Peace Conference and when our countrymen go there the doors of hospitals are thrown open to them so that they may stay there for some months and get training in sabotage warfare.

These friends should know that if the sacrifices made by all of them are compared with those of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru they will find themselves hopelessly outbalanced. Then there are in the Congress bravemen like Lala Kidar Nath Saigal who would even walk up to the scaffold with a smile on his lips. My hon. Friend who happened to be a patwari and who was once sent to jail.........

Shri Wadhawa Ram: I was in jail for a year and a half.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: He who was in jail for one year and a half....

Mr. Speaker: Why should the hon. Member say that he was sentenced to one and a half years' imprisonment ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Sir, I am just repeating what he has told......

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: My hon. Friend has said that he met Mr. P.S. Rau in PEPSU and told him that if he would assure my hon. Friend that no action would be taken against..........

Sardar Harkishen Singh Surjit: This is incorrect. I never said that.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: He said that there were some Communists who had committed murders at the instance of Jagirdars and had been declared absconders and that he offered their surrender. This shows very clearly that these hon. Friends are in league with certain criminals who have been declared absconders and whom no one can give asylum without contravening the law. Again, these gentlemen surrendered those people only when the latter had taken them into confidence.

Then, Sir, my hon. Friend has appealed to the Government not to gag the Press. If he had carefully gone through what vernacular newspapers are writing day in and day out, he would not have made such an appeal in these terms. My hon. Friends always declare their readiness to co-operate with the Government in dealing with communalist organisations. But in the same breath they compare this measure with Rowlatt Act and Frontier Regulations Act.

Today they argue in the name of demccracy and patriotism and those who staked their all in the independence movement and plead that these restrictions are uncalled for. Today they want us to resolve differences and come to an agreement with them. Sir, how can a compromise be reached with the people who have all along been wedded to subversive and destructive activities ? With your permission, Sir, may I enquire of them if they are prepared to disclose the place where, all those who abscond hide themselves ? Is it not a fact that they were given protection in Russia and China ? What a fine example of sacrifice and patriotism they tried to set by having close but secret relations with foreign countries like Russia ! Any place in the way e.g. Kabul, Kandhar, Mecca, etc , perhaps did not suit their convenience. Russia is the only Mecca—the place of pilgrimage—for them. Not dilating much on the point I would simply like to make it clear that the Act which is being placed on the Statute Book with a view to maintaining peace and tranquillity of the State would be enforced only against those people who sabotage the rights which freedom has bestowed on them. Sir, as a matter of fact, I do not think that enactment of such a law is called for provided these people were to assure the Government that they would not indulge in violence nor look up to Russia any longer for guidance but that they would become law-abiding citizens of India owing their allegiance to the Government constituted under the Constitution.

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*) : In this connection, Sir, I am simply to submit that the clause should be carried as it stands. I have been disposed to make this observation owing to the reason that the same group of persons which, on the floor of this House, accuses the Government of being extremely tyrannical and perpetrating atrocities on the public, instigates the people to start agitations and indulge in vilolent activities which endanger the security of the State and impede its progress. In order to incite the masses they resort to undesirable means. They advance very frivolous arguments to mislead them. They tell the people that these Congressmen have been blessed with the power to run the government for a period of twelve years. This is due to the loyalty and perseverence which they displayed during the Ram Rajya. But they are devoid of the art of running the administration, and, therefore, they should adopt all possible means to replace them. But the fact of the matter is that our Government is acting on democratic principles. It has not the slightest intention to harass other political parties. This is why no reference, whatsoever, has been made by the Communist or the Akali Party in this Bill. The objections raised by the Opposition can be likened to a guilty conscience dreading its own shadow. Only the guilty people raise hue and cry.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : "*Chor ki darhi men Shatir*". (*laughter*).

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar : Well, Sir, they demand that this Bill should be withdrawn and no restrictions be imposed on the freedom of speech or writings of the people. But before advancing such an argument let them confirm whether it is a fact or not that during the delibrations at the Moga

[Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar]
Conference held on the 20th March, 1953, which is estimated to have been attended by lakhs of people, party and undesirable slogans like "*Sajja Per Jutti da*.... (सज्जा पैर जुत्ती दा).... ਸੱਜਾ ਪੈਰ ਜੁੱਤੀ ਦਾ...... were raised. The next sentence is such as no civilised person would like to utter, much less reproduce before this august House.

Sardar Gopal Singh : This is absolutely wrong.

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar : Sir, my hon. Friend has been very quick to contradict my remark. But I would urge upon him to go through the columns of the newspaper published by that party. Of course, a contradiction with regard to the number of the participants in the Conference has been made in that newspaper. Its columns emphatically denounce the estimate of the number of delegates in the following words— "The Congressite *Mahashas* tell a lie—not fifty thousand but as many as four lakhs of people attended that conference." But I am surprised that no contradiction of the slogan which I have mentioned has been made in any article of the newspaper.

Sardar Gopal Singh : How could it be contradicted when it was never heard of ?

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar : Well, if this be the case, let me inform the House including the Editor of that newspaper and the Leader of the Opposition that all the slogans raised during the course of that conference were published in the columns of the various newspapers., If they are not yet convinced let them read the issue of "Vir Bharat" dated 2nd April, which has further been commented upon by the 'Pratap' (*Interruptions*). One should not conceal facts. He should place all the cards on the table. Instead of contradicting these news, an obnoxious expression i.e. "The Bahman of Allahabad cannot think of our betterment" was very proudly published in the newspaper of which our hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, is the Editor.

Sardar Gopal Singh : On a point of order, Sir. My submission is that from the very outset, the hon. Member has been referring to newspapers. I know that you pull us up if we talk in such terms while contradicting such wild allegations. I would request that the hon. Member should be asked to exercise restraint and refrain from making such observations.

Mr. Speaker : How can I call upon him not to talk of newspapers when the discussion is itself concerned with the writings ?

Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar : Sir, I am not saying things on mere hearsay. That was contained in the 'Prabhat' of 31st March, which is edited by our Leader of the Opposition. I am confident that he must have gone through it. It is unlikely that it could have been published without his knowledge. What I apprehend, Sir, is that these things are given currency in the newspapers only with a view to degrade and bring into disrepute a towering personality, who is not only the accredited leader of India but also of the entire Asian continent and whose advice is sought by the Western powers as well is in connection with world problems. I wonder when on the one hand they do not hesitate to indulge in such objectionable expressions, why on the other when a Bill to prevent them from doing so is brought, they raise a hue and cry that their right of free expression and writing is being usurped. Being a member of the Government party, therefore, I can say without any hesitation that restrictions should definitely be imposed on such activities (*Cheers*).

Then, Sir, the Opposition ranks have questioned the necessity of enacting this piece of legislation when no abnormal conditions exist in the State. My submission is that while legislating we have not only to take into account the present circumstances but also have to foresee the future. We do not want such a Minister who would advise the king not to bother even when the enemy forces are approaching near the capital of the kingdom. We have to adopt the principle as indicated in the proverb :—

ਤੇਲ ਵੇਖੋ ਤੇਲ ਦੀ ਧਾਰ ਵੇਖੋ

तेल देखो तेल दी धार वेखो

Therefore, we do not want the Ministers who would only wait and watch and would not take any concrete step to provide for an emergency well in advance.

Recently a conference was held at Delhi to discuss and make adequate arrangements for saving the fields of the Punjab from the attack of locusts which had already invaded Rajasthan. It could have been said what need there was to take precautionary measures in Punjab when the locusts were so far away. But action was taken so that if the locusts did invade this State we should not have been taken unawares. Similarly, Sir, we feel that disturbances exist in the neighbouring areas of the Punjab, and we should provide against such disturbances arising in this State even though at present the law and order situation in the State is satisfactory. It is only sagacious to provide for emergencies or against emergencies so that we are not caught napping. In the circumstances, I would like to submit that it is necessary that this Bill be enacted, particularly at a juncture when some irresponsible forces are at work to jeopardise the peace and tranquility of the country. Sir, it is strange that when the law and order situation in the State is discussed, they emphatically assert that the situation is hopeless and yet when some Bill to improve such situation is introduced they urge that there is no need for it as the law and order situation in the State is satisfactory. Thus they advocate that there is no necessity of such an enactment. These are surprisingly contradictory arguments. It means that they have no sense of proportion or judgment. They keep on shifting their ground. Therefore, in the end, Sir, I support this clause and request the House to pass it in its original form.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I would like to make a few observations with regard to this clause. I wonder why the name of Russia and China pinches the hon. Members of the Treasury Benches whenever they stand to reply to certain arguments. Besides, they have time and again been trying to substantiate their claim of having been the patriots of the country. In reply to this I would simply observe that the Communist Party would refuse to include such patriots within its ranks.

Then, Sir, I may point out that their allegation that unfair means were used by our party during the recent bye-elections, is entirely unfounded. No mention whatsoever was made of Earl or Lady Mountbatten. The allegation is baseless.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that Shri Jawaharlal Nehru was shown as taking wine in a play which was staged there ?

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Many other things were also said which are not true. Lala Kidar Nath Sehgal's case was referred to in this connection. We have great respect for him but the hon. Member who referred to him forgot to mention Sardar Sohan Singh Josh. I do not know why some people are

[Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut]

afraid of mentioning his name. Under this Bill, restriction has been imposed not only on speeches and writings but on signs as well. If in the course of his speech a person lays stress on some thing by help of signs......

Mr. Speaker : This clause refers to recorded signs and not those which are made in speech.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Sir, it is the District Magistrates who will have to interpret this clause. All kinds of signs will be covered by this provision. It has been said that it is necessary to pass this clause in order to prevent foreign relations with a country getting estranged. In this connection, I wish to inform the hon. Members that the General Secretary of the State Congress has issued a poster against China. In that poster it has been stated that two crore and a few lakhs of persons have been murdered in China There is absolutely no truth in that statement. Why should those persons who issue such posters be not sent to jail first ? I, however, know that this law is intended for being used against the Opposition parties.

It is said that the Communist Party gets funds from Russia. May I know how these funds are received ? The post offices are under the control of the Government and I call upon it to explain how money is received from Russia. Mr. Speaker, these restrictions will be imposed on the newspapers owned by the Opposition parties. My hon. Friend Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar said that some people made some propaganda against the Government. I hold that the Opposition parties have a right to change the Government and to condemn it in public. If restriction is imposed on such things it will not be conducive to good results.

Sardar Gopal Singh (Jagraon) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, my hon. Friend Jathedar Mohan Singh said certain things which should not have been referred to. I, however, know that his good lies in saying such things because he derives personal benefit by showering praises on Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Our Constitution guarantees freedom of writing and speech but from the provisions of the Bill under discussion the hon. Members can form an idea about the manner in which civil liberties in the State are being trampled under foot. Jathedar Mohan Singh said that many objectionable things were said at a gathering of about two or three lakhs of persons at Moga. I admit that about five lakh persons assembled there but the reports would show that the Akali leaders had so much control over the people attending the Conference that not a single objectionable word was uttered. My hon. Friend tried to go out of the way to please Pandit Nehru and said that some objectionable slogans were raised there. He did not complete the slogan to which he referred. He went on to say that the Leader of the Opposition said at that meeting that the Pandit from Allahabad wanted to crush them. May I know whether Shri Jawaharlal Nehru does not belong to Allahabad and is not a Pandit? Is this Bill intended for the prevention of such utterances ? If go-betweens (*Nais*) of the type of my hon. Friend did not exist the relations between the Sikhs and the Government........

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should withdraw the word go-between (*Nai*).

Sardar Gopal Singh: Sir, I meant a 'messenger' by that word. I was submitting that if persons like him were not there, perfect peace and tranquillity would prevail in the State. Gentlemen like him carry false reports to Pandit Nehru. They think that they can retain their offices and derive other benefits in this manner alone. The daily 'Partap' has the largest circulation among the Urdu papers and the Sikh paper which has the largest circulation is the 'Parbhat'. In compliance with the orders issued by the Chief Minister no official advertisement is sent for insertion in these papers. Laws like the one under discussion are aimed at crushing the freedom of the press. The Government should be conscious of the feelings of the general public. If the public is dissatisfied with the Government, its sympathies should not be alienated still further by passing laws of this kind. The Government should redress the difficulties of the people and not pass laws of this type.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Jullundur City South-East) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, while discussing Clause 9 it has been repeatedly said that there should be freedom of speech and writing. Nobody can deny that there should be freedom of speech and writing but sometimes this freedom is misused resulting in harm being done to the country. Mr. Speaker, a sharp knife can be used for mending pens or cutting vegetables. Similarly, a sword can be used for defending the country and destroying its enemies but if the same weapon is placed in the hands of a raw person he is likely to do harm to himself. With respect to these clauses of the Bill, I beg to submit that some newspapers in our State are misusing the freedom given to them and it has become necessary to incorporate these Clauses in this Bill to prevent them from working mischief. Some of the newspapers are such that they are being run on purely business lines and their managements are concerned with profits alone. These papers publish those things which are useful for them. If the proprietors of the newspapers or their friends or relatives are in power they praise everything done by them, but if they cease to be in power those very things are condemned. As you are aware, Sir, some of our vernacular newspapers are spreading communal virus or other evils instead of serving the country.

Sir, you also know what is now the position of law and order in the State. My brother Chaudhri Sri Chand while making his speech on this Bill had remarked that the position of law and order in the State was quite satisfactory. He, too, admitted this fact. Although the position is satisfactory yet considering the state of affairs in the neighbouring State and also in our State the Government has to adopt measures to be able to control a situation of this type. Sir, you know that the Government has to take steps to check the outbreak of malaria, typhoid, small-pox and plague, etc., and has also to make arrangements for giving injections to the people to prevent deaths from these diseases. It does not look proper that it should take recourse to promulgating ordinances or impose ban on newspapers when the position of law and order deteriorates all of a sudden. Is it proper that till that time they should be given full freedom to lower the morale of the people by preaching communalism and singing the hymn of hate ? Sir, you must be knowing what happened recently in the bye-election held in the Kangra District. My brother Shri Prabodh Chandra has given a graphic detail of the whole situation. You must have noticed how the right of freedom of speech was abused. It is true that various parties contest elections and that the people should have full and unfettered right to cast their votes. If Congress Government is in power today the other parties are within their right to criticise it. But it was most objectionable, indeed, that speeches in which mud-slinging was indulged should have been delivered or such obscene songs should have been sung by the musicians which no decent person can repeat. What I wish to drive at is

[Shrimati Sita Devi]
that the right of freedom of speech is being utterly abused and especially the vernacuar press is taking undue advantage of it. Under these circumstances, I regard the vernacular press as the greatest enemy of the State, as it is a great source of mischief. Sir, I would say that these vernacular papers helped in the creation of Pakistan in 1947 and inflamed the worst passions of the people and preached communalism and fanaticism. I may submit that a weekly paper is published in Kangra of which the first three pages are devoted to the praise of communism and the other two pages contain propaganda in favour of the capitalist candidate who contested the bye-election. If such is the standard of journalism and the newspaper be working with a motive of profit-making then how can we maintain law and order in the State, in the absence of such a provision as has been made in clause 9 of the Bill? I think that the success of the Congress candidate in this bye-election has been due to the fact that vernacular papers do not reach the villages of Kangra District, and for this reason the people cast their votes independently in favour of the deserving candidate. Without taking much time of the House I would submit that the hon. Members who have the welfare of the State at their heart should not oppose this clause. I also hope that the Government will also not misuse its powers under this law.

Sardar Sarup Singh (Amritsar City) (*English*) : Sir, many great fighters have valiantly fought and bled for the achievement of individual liberty and freedom. Here I am reminded of persons like Limp, Hempden, Washington and many other eminent and distinguished persons in this country, now lying peacefully in their graves, who were greatly associated with the achievement of the individual liberty. Sir, had they come to know that a drastic Bill, like the one now under consideration, seeking to arm the Government with wide and vague powers to curtail the individual liberty was going to be passed, they would have been rudely shocked. They would have hung their heads in shame and thought that they had been fighting in vain for the achievement of individual liberty and freedom. Mr. Speaker, they would have been quite justified in thinking that they had very unworthy and unsuitable successors at the moment at the helm of affairs, who instead of preserving and perpetuating the hard-won individual liberty are curtailing it by passing such a repressive Bill. Sir, it is well known in all democratic practices that the State exists for the individual and not the individual for the State. If the State does not cater to the individual personality and does not allow chances to the individual to achieve his best..............

Shri Mool Chand Jain : On a point of Order, Sir. Can the hon. Member read his speech.

Sardar Sarup Singh : I am amazed to find my hon. Friend talking in tha way. I am not reading my speech.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member need not take notice of any interruption He may please continue his speech.

Sardar Sarup Singh : Now, Sir, if the State appropriates to itself the functions which are of an individual and thereby finishes his individuality, I think it does not deserve the sympathy of any individual. Any individual who has got any democratic sense would feel injured by such sweeping provisions which have been made in the Bill and if he does not feel so then I must conclude that all democratic sense in that individual has vanished and he is catering to such needs which in the long run are bound to prove ruinous to him.

Now, Sir, my hon. Friends, the framers of this Bill, probably forget that we have in this country a very comprehensive code called the Indian Penal Code and many of the offences or attempts to abet offences which are enumerated in Clause 9 of the Bill under discussion are dealt with much more satisfactorily in that Code.

My hon. Friend, Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar was very eloquent about the defamation, which he alleged had taken place at a certain place of certain individuals. Probably he is not aware that dafamation is an offence and if any individual feels aggrieved he has got every right to go to the court of law and justice would be done to him, if normal circumstances prevail in this country.

Then, Sir, in the clause under discussion there are provisions relating to friendly relations with the Foreign States, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence, acts prejudicial to the security of the State, so on and so forth. All these provisions are adequately met by the Indian Penal Code. I do not see any new point in this Bill except that all the provisions and all the very intelligent exceptions which have been made in that Code—and which I must say to the credit of the framers that they had been so wisely framed that they remain unaltered for over a century—are not incorporated in it. If this clause is passed in its present form, it would be tantamount to an end of individual liberty in this State. Therefore, my reason in opposing this clause is that its purpose is really met by the law already on the Statute Book and if we pass this Clause we give up all those provisos and exceptions made in that Code and thereby make the present Bill utterly sweeping and therefore conducive to the finishing of the individual liberty. No unflinching adherent to naked reality would hesitate to admit this fact.

Jathedar Mohan Singh's speech has been very illuminating for I think it has let the cat out of the bag. His speech, if I heard it aright, clearly indicated that this enactment would be used for party purposes because the things that he enumerated related to individuals and there was nothing which really threatened or imperilled the security of the State. Now, if this enactment is used for party purposes, it becomes a highly dangerous weapon and I would appeal to the conscience of the hon. Members sitting in this House to see whether the provision which they are passing is not being used by the party in power for party purposes. For God's sake, do not identify the party with the State. You have seen the fate of that party in Pakistan which identified itself with the State. The people there became aware that unless they finished that party ....

Mr. Speaker: I would request the hon. Member to refrain from discussing the conditions that obtain in Pakistan.

Sardar Sarup Singh: So it is highly impolitic, unstatesmanlike, and dangerous to identify a party with the State. Try to serve the State as best as you can but do not misuse the State for your party purposes otherwise the consequences would be beyond you and very dangerous.

Maulvi Abdul Ghani Dar (Nuh) (*Hindi*) : Sir, it is not without good rea sons that this Bill has been brought forward in a regime in which Nehru, Sachar and Saigal are playing such important roles. Had this not been the case, Shri Sachar, our Chief Minister, who is a devotee of Lord Krishna, and a believer in Gita would not have introduced it.

[Maulvi Abdul Ghani Dar]

एक तजे कुल-हेत ।
कुल तजे पुर-हेत ।
पुर तजे देश के लिये ।
देश तजे ग्रपनेत ।।

ਏਕ ਤਜੇ ਕੁਲ ਹੇਤ ।
ਕੁਲ ਤਜੇ ਪੁਰ ਹੇਤ ।
ਪੁਰ ਤਜੇ ਦੇਸ਼ ਕੇ ਲੀਏ ।
ਦੇਸ਼ ਤਜੇ ਅਪਨੇਤ ।

According to Lord Krishna, an individual should sacrifice himself for the sake of his family, the family should sacrifice itself for the town and the town for the country but when it is a choice between one's country and one's conscience, one should sacrifice the former.

Our hon. Chief Minister fully understands the meaning of these verses. Then it will be asked why this Bill has been brought forward. We are not praising it; we ourselves were in the front row of those who used to agitate for the repeal of such measures and protest against their enactment. Sir, soon after this Assembly started functioning under your guidance we had requested our hon. Friends occupying the Opposition Benches to co-operate with us and work for the well-being of the people of this State which we told them was as much theirs as ours. It is a matter for regret that the activities of some elements of the population of this State have forced the Chief Minister and his colleagues to bring forward this Bill for enactment by the Legislature. Now that the hon. Friends sitting opposite have tried to assure the hon. Chief Minister about their not taking part in any violent activity or hatching a conspiracy to overthrow the Government by force, I may also, knowing as I do the Chief Minister's mind, assure them on his behalf that they need not fear any of the provisions of the proposed measure. The powers that its enactment will confer upon the Government will not be used against those who do not come within its mischief or those who really want our State and country to progress, no matter what flag or symbol they have adopted for their party.

Soon after assuming the reins of office, the hon. Chief Minister had asked Master Tara Singh and others not to feel satisfied with the leadership of one group of people but to assume leadership of the whole State by co-operating with Pandit Nehru.

There is no denying the fact that our hon. Chief Minister is a wide-awake man and his colleagues are also enlightened persons. They know how to win over the masses. Like a truely democratic party we have to compete for the good will of the people by placing our achievements and programme before them. We know we cannot win their support by passing such measures as this Bill. We cannot remain in power unless we serve them and serve them well. This measure has been brought forward because there are reasons to believe that some irresponsible persons want to disturb peace and public order. The Chief Minister cannot allow them to have their own way. Had the friends opposite been occupying these benches, they would certainly not have allowed any one to be a menace to the tranquillity of the State.

All the same, I would request the hon. Chief Minister to take due precautions to ensure that its provisions are not misused. A recent incident points to the necessity of guarding against the wrongful use of laws. In the city of Ludhiana lives a very old public worker, Shri Ghasita Ram, who is about 84. He first courted arrest in the national movement of 1907, and was sentenced to undergo imprisonment for 1½ years. Since then there has not been a single national movement in which he did not take part. He is now too weak to walk properly. Some time back while out for a walk he was passing urine at some place, when a constable caught hold of him and gave him a beating with his own lathi. He pleaded that being very aged and infirm, he could not restrain himself but nobody paid heed to him and he was challaned under Section 34. Now, what I mean to say is that the Section was all right but a proper use was not made of it. I hope the hon. Chief Minister will not let any acts of high-handedness or injustice be committed as a result of the enforcement of the proposed law.

Sir, you have done well to advise us to avoid the use of harsh words not only because we are in a majority but also because the members of the Opposition are our brethren, who underwent sentences of imprisonment in jail in common with us. Today if they have chosen to part company with us, why should we be cross with them ? We have a fine Leader, a fine Speaker and many fine persons in the Opposition also. This is a very august House. I hold my Leader in great esteem and, therefore, it pained me yesterday to find him reluctant to give an assurance to the opposition about the allotment of some other day for non-official business when the motion for utilizing Thursday for transacting Government business was under discussion. This gave me the impression that he must be strong and popular enough to defeat any attempt to dislodge him from office.

Sir, this Bill has been brought forward because the Government is apprehensive of certain people attempting to overthrow it by violent means or of endangering the security of the State. I am sure if the Akali and Communist friends assure the House that they are prepared to co-operate with the Government for the promotion of the welfare of the State and abjure unconstitutional methods, the proposed measure will not at all be enforced.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I am afraid my hon. Friends sitting opposite have knowingly or unknowingly made certain statements which if they go unrefuted, are likely to create considerable misunderstanding, nay even do much harm. Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit has charged me with having attacked China in my speech, yesterday. I was extremely surprised to hear this allegation. I think he definitely misunderstood me. I just want to remind the House that yesterday I was quoting from some reports relating to certain meetings. I told the House what a certain person (I had not mentioned his name) had said. I may again read out what he had said—

Somebody made the following remarks:—

> "Become fearless. Deny openly that you have anything to do with Communists. Create influence and spread terror. Beat all Sub-Inspectors of Police in the villages. Ridicule them. We will soon launch a no tax campaign. Get ready."

[Chief Minister]

These things were not said by me. Could I have said such things? Then further on I read that gentleman had made the following remark while addressing his comrades at a certain place:

> "Have full faith in the might and ultimate victory of the Red Armies."

These were the words that that gentleman was addressing to his comrades. These are not my words. Further on, the same gentleman said these words to his comrades —

> "Make things hot and difficult for the Nehru Sarkar. Go on collecting signatures. The masses will be helped by Chinese Communists through Nepal Border".

It was not I who said that China was indulging in such activities or had indulged in them. I said just this that some genetleman had said these things to his comrades who has assembled at a certain place. He also said the follwoing further on:—

> "Every move must be carried out according to definite plans and orders from above. Do nothing violent yet. After six months, things will take a Red turn."

I would again wish to repeat here that it was these things to which I referred yesterday. It was not I who said these things, nor am I capable of saying such things. I do not say that a deliberate effort has been made to create confusion. But by side-tracking the real issue, effort has been made to point out what a spokesman of the Government is saying about a friendly foreign power That is why I have again read out to the House the things to which I made a reference yesterday so that my friends of the Opposition may have no misunderstanding. I think they must have known the real facts now. If even after this, they would indulge in misstatements, you can realise what the result will be.

Again, this was also said that we wanted to vitiate the foreign relations. I wonder how this idea could have been formed. It is meaningless for us to say anything with regard to the foreign relations. I think, to say anything with regard to a certain party, following a certain programme and acting in a certain way, is not tantamount to saying anything with regard to a foreign power or a foreign country. If, therefore, we have any complaint, it is with regard to the programme of that party, its tactics and its strategy according to which it wants to further the cause of violence. That party according to its strategy wants to come into prominence and to consolidate itself for that purpose. For that purpose, it will adopt violent methods. Under these circumstances, it is not at all possible that the Government should not take notice of the programme of that party which it wants to follow in this State. It is not possible that the Government should not combat the activities of that party. Under the false plea of criticising a foreign country, that party cannot save itself. That party will necessarily come within the purview of the law.

Then it has been said, and rightly too, that every party has the right of moulding public opinion in its favour. This is quite true. If this had not been the case, Sir, most of the friends sitting opposite would not have been seen here. However, one fundamental thing should be understood by everybody, whosoever he may be. It is this that violence cannot be recognised in the State of Punjab, nor can the violent activities be tolerated over here. I am sure that all the gentlemen who are present here, will agree with this viewpoint. There is nothing vague about it. I may assure you still further that

the members of my party are ahead of every one else in this that everybody should have freedom of speech etc., and they raise their voice against even the slightest highandedness, wherever it occurs. Can there be a better proof of our being fair-minded than this one? We do not want to do injustice to anybody. Just now, Sir, you saw that the members of my party raised the voice and made a loud protest because a thing, if correct picture is presented, its produces a deep impression. We ourselves do not like that any highhandedness should be committed or there should be any injustice. For instance, it was just now said that a policeman committeed highhandedness on a respectable old gentleman. It was certainly bad on his part. But if it had been known that adequate punishment was meted out to that policeman, this thing would have created a different effect. I may tell the House that the Superintendent of Police offered an apology for the excess committed by that policeman and he said that he was ashamed for what the constable had done since he was responsible for what the constable had done. Sir, who does not commit a mistake? The question is whether the man who commits such acts of highhandedness is adequately punished or not, and whether the Government makes enquiries into such happenings or not. I cannot believe that nobody should even think of committing a crime in the State. But what is to be seen is what the Government does in this connection. Is it prepared for checking completely the excesses should they be committed by anybody? Since we want to check such excesses, I, assure my hon. Friends sitting opposite that we do not want to deprive other parties of their rights. We want that they should make proper use of their rights. But I give here an example to show how they use their rights. It will cause a little bit of relaxation.

It is said that there occurred a famine in India. There was shortage of foodgrains here. Seeing this, Pandit Nehru went running to the Government of America. He said to them," We have nothing to eat; therefore give us foodgrains". They said, "Very well, you can take it". As a result of this begging wheat arrived.

But then that party started issuing statements that America had sent us rotten wheat. That is why an agitation is going on among the public. And then it was said that the Government of America told Pandit Nehru that they had given wheat once but that they would not be able to give it every time. For this purpose, they said that we would have to make some arrangement and that arrangement was this that all the old men in the country should be exterminated (*Laughter*),and in future no more children should be produced. (*Renewed Laughter*). My hon. Friends, while pointing to the B.C.G. vaccination, said that this remedy was suggested to Mr. Nerhu by the Government of America and consequently lakhs of people in India are now being vaccinated by the Government (*Laughter*). This is how, Sir, these hon. Friends use the right of freedom of speech..

Mr. Speaker, such thing should not be said in the name of democracy. My friends began to say strange things when the Government decided that the medical practitioners should be registered. What the Government desired was that instead of saving life the physicians should not be destroying life. But one is shocked to find the use that is being made of the freedom of speech by my hon. Friends. They have been telling the people that the Government does not want the Vaids and Hakims to sell their medicines. I say, is this the way of advancing the cause of democracy in our country?

[Chief Minister]

Something has been said about the Moga Conference which is not absolutely correct. Reports are being examined and necessary steps will be taken by the Government in case something important comes to its notice. This matter is being duly considered.

It has been said that the necessary law already exists in the shape of the Indian Penal Code and other Acts. I say if it be so, what is all this fuss about? If the law already exists, what is the need of all this criticism? Why has so much time been wasted? It isn't good to make conjectures and say that things would be done like this or that. The fact is that a new shape is being given to a law which already exists and is about to expire. Leaving the merits and demerits of this law aside, could my friends give a single instance in which this law was not properly applied during the last year? It is provided in clause 9 that:—

> " ....if such speech, statement, rumour or report undermines the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or amounts to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence, prejudicial to the security of the State or the maintenance of public order, or tends to overthrow the State, be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years or with fine or with both."

This work is not to be done by the executive. The executive has only to prepare a statement. There are some persons who are habitual offenders and the presence of this law is essential for them. So far as the Press is concerned we are second to one in giving it the fullest freedom. We shall always be prepared to give all possible facilities for its betterment and have every respect for it. But then there are people who become responsible for giving a bad name to the press. The Press is a noble institution and is known as the fifth estate. If the press respresentatives say things about themselves that is a different matter but I think nobody would expect the Government to spare a pressman if and when he writes something which goes against the security of the State, decency or the set standards of our morality. So far as private offences are concerned recourse can be had to defamation proceedings but so far offences against the State and public morality are concerned, which are likely to create some sort of disorder, I have no hesitation in saying that everything that can be done against the offenders will be done by this Government. I don't think such people should be given any kind of encouragement or that they should be allowed to work as channels of our advertisement. The Government has to look to the work of publicity and when it can be done in a proper manner, there is no reason why we should not discourage the undesirable elements.

Another thing that has been said is that the party is not State. There is no doubt that the state is something much higher. There is certainly nothing wrong with this remark if it means that the Congressites should not oppress others and that they should have good relations with them. Nobody can disagree with this point of view. My friends are at liberty to raise their voice against the Government if they find that it is not doing justice or it is not treating all alike. What I mean to drive at is that if any officer of my Government, or any representative of the Government or any department seeks to do any such act which would utlimately result in coercion, injustice or the creating of unrest amongst the people matter should be reported to me. My hon. Friend has remarked that our honeyed words are all on paper only. In this connection I would like to submit that governmental machinery can be run by means of only one of two methods viz., violence and non-violence.

As I have already stated, Sir, we do not want to adopt the first method. And would, therefore, again ask them that if they have any grievance they should let me know. I would be too pleased to welcome three or four of their representatives and have a heart to heart talk with them. I would repeat the same request to the hon. Members of the Akali Party and assure them that I would personally look into the matter and take a decision. I entirely agree with my hon. Friend Shri Abdul Ghani that we have to improve the conditions at present obtaining in the State. But nobody would be able to tolerate their activities if they want to disrupt the administrative machinery, spread rumours and create dissensions and bickerings among the shopkeepers and zamindars, zamindars and factory owners. On the one hand they make propaganda amongst the labourers that full wages are not being given to them and on the other they instigate the factory owners that some baneful measures are being passed against them. But, Mr. Speaker, if they do not spread rumours and the people do not stand at bay or do not come into conflict with each other, how can they gain their own end? However, I would like to make it clear to them that henceforth they would not be able to continue this practice.

Sir,a few days back I met a spiritual preceptor who told me that if we have to expalin any matter to somebody we must adopt a gentle and pious mood or otherwise we would not be able to succeed in our object. But, my submission is that if the next person is full of passions or anger we would also have to adopt the same attitude. I would just elucidate my point. Supposing a mad person is running amock and I know that he would fall headlong into a drain. I must check him from doing so. In such a case, Sir, my resistance may be given the name of violence, such violence would continue from our side. But it would be of the non-violence nature and would be based on justice. It would be in the interest of the State as a whole. Had my hon. Friends kept this point in view, much of the valuable time of the House would have been saved and the present Bill passed long ago.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That part (b) be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in line 7, the words "statement, rumour or report" be deleted

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in lines 8-9, the words "friendly relations with foreign States" be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in lines 9-10, the words "decency or morality" be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in lines 11-12, the words " or incitement to an offence, or tends to overthrow the State " be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in lines 13-14, for words "three years or with fine or with both" the words one "month" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in lines 10-11, the words " or is in relation to........an offence " be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 9 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 10

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That the Clause be deleted.

That sub-clause (2) be deleted.

That sub-clause (4) be deleted.

Mr. Speaker, the drama entitled 'The Punjab Security of the State Act', has reached its climax. Through this Act Government wants, in parts, to impose restrictions on the movements of the individuals, the independence of Press, the civil liberty of the masses and above all place restrictions on particular areas. With the enactment of this measure, the Government would be free to declare any place a ' disturbed area. It has been remarked by our Chief Minister that the Government is passing this measure in order to keep the flame of independence burning. He also claims to use violence to the extent to which it is in the interest of the security of the State. It will just be analogous to the knife of a doctor which he uses in operating upon his patient with a view to alleviate his troubles. But, Mr. Speaker, I am constrained to remark that their conception of liberty and its protection is based on a wrong theory.

Sir, I am reminded of a story in this connection. A certain Raja did not trust any of his men and, therefore, he trained a monkey to work as his bodyguard and personal attendant. The monkey used to attend on the Raja with a sword in his hand. One day while the Raja was having a nap in his bed a fly came and settled on his nose. The monkey thought that the fly was sure to disturb the sleep of his master and he atonce attacked it with his sword with the result that while the fly made its escape good the Raja went to eternal

sleep, never to rise again. Similarly, our hon. Minister thinks that the goddess of civil liberties is grasping the Communist flag and the Congress Government must save her. Now, Sir, in his efforts to save the goddess these gentlemen have cut her hands with this swords. The reason why they have maimed the goddess of liberty is that their conception of freedom is fundamentally wrong and instead of saving civil liberties they are putting an end to them.

The hon. Minister wants such powers as are enjoyed by the President. The Government has asked for powers to declare any part of the State as a disturbed area and I would like to draw your attention to the consequences thereof. First of all a constable will make a report that the situation in a certain area has become dangerous. That report will be verified by the Sub-Inspector of Police. When that report is received by the Government it will be confirmed that the situation is actually very dangerous and the area will be declared as a disturbed one. This will amount to following that Raja who had entrusted a monkey with a dangerous weapon. Now any area can be declared as a disturbed on the report of a constable and thus my hon. Friends will cut the hands of the goddess of freedom instead of saving her. They refuse to realise that this is Simla and not Lahore. This action of theirs amounts to taking medicine by a person simply becuase his neighbour says that he is suffering from headache not that he himself feels it. If the situation has become dangerous anywhere it is in the Pakistan Punjab and not here.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should, please, confine his remarks to our own State and refrain from making references to other States.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina. Then, Sir, they have already at their disposal Sections 87 and 88 of the Criminal Procedure Code for punishing any one who harbours a criminal. My hon. Friends have been declaring over and over again that conditions in our State are quite normal and, therefore,I would submit that they should not make abnormal laws to meet normal conditions. Is it in keeping with their boasts of democracy that this provision of collective fines is being included in this Bill? Is it just that a whole village should be punished with a fine for the crimes of one or two individuals? It would appear from these provisions that they are going to dispense with the services of all the judges and magistrates because there will be no need to go to them for administration of law and justice. I think that the hon. Members sitting opposite who happen to be lawyers will be pleased that now they will be given some executive jobs.

I would appeal to the hon. Members on the Treasury Benches not to be adament in their present attitude. There are already sufficient legal powers in their armoury and our Constitution also vests in them wide powers to meet any emergency. Not only our Ministers but even the Governor declared in his Address that conditions in our State are absolutely normal. Thus there is no need to enact this measure at present. My hon. Friends claim to be the defenders of freedom but I would say that they are out to put an end to all civil liberties and freedom by bringing this law on the Statute Book. It has been said that this measure has been brought forward because my friends apprehend a deterioration in the situation regarding law and order. My I ask them whether they have received some meassage from some reliable source that we are going to have abnormal conditions in our State in the very near future?

[Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina]

My friends opposite have brought some very funny accusations against us. For instance, it has been said that we told the people in Kangra that our Government will kill all the old men in the area and then hand them over to America where their dead bodies will be used for manufacturing soap. Let me declare in this House that all this is absolutely wrong and we got it confirmed by Baba Budh Singh that these statements were incorrect. We think that after having enacted this law the Government will once again arrest all the members of our party.

Minister for Finance: This law is already in existence.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina: I, therefore, appeal to the Government not to kill the goddess of freedom by enacting this measure.

Mr. Speaker: Motions moved—

That the Clause be deleted.

That sub-clause (2) be deleted.

That sub-clause (4) be deleted.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Clause be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That sub-clause (2) be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That sub-clause (4) be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 10 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 11

Shri Wadhwa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That the Clause be deleted.

That in the last two lines, the words "and to the disposal of........under this section" be deleted.

Sir, I feel that through this clause our Government seeks to work for the non-welfare (ਬਹਿਬੂਦੀ) of the people (*Laughter*). I mean that even at present the police arrest the people without any rhyme or reason, files false suits against them and harasses them. Now the same set of people I mean the police which is notorious for tormenting the innocent people, is being vested with still more powers to raid any place where it apprehends some criminal to be staying.

Sir, as a matter of fact, two departments in our State i.e. the Police and the Jail departments are such as are always labouring under suspicion. The officers and the officials of these departments, feel very gratified when any such case, in which they can perpetrate atrocities, on the people, comes to them I am sure that with the passage of this Bill—particularly this very clause—their hands will be strengthened with the result that they will put anyone under arrest whom they suspect. What will happen now? Any police man who might not be on good terms with particular man, would get warants against him from the magistrate and arrest him. I am confident that in no case, will the Magistrate refuse to issue warrants. This is the same police whose acts of highhandedness we have all along been witnessing and discussing only very recently some ten days ago, one Sardar Bachitter Singh who committed no crime was arrested by the Police who tortured him to their hearts contents and consequently put him to death. His dead body lay at Kot Bhai for two days. A statement was issued that he was killed in an encounter with the police. In this way the police itself has created lawlessness everywhere in the State.

Then Sir, I have not the power to describe the countless atrocities committed on the people in the Jails. You may also be aware of their tactics but Sir, claim to have greater knowledge in this regard than anybodyelse. The modern Jail administration in particular, is rampant with mal-practices. I am saying this because even under the present regime we have to deal with it (*interruption*). Sir, after all, it is but natural that the people who have got a bitter experience of the Jails, the people who are severely beaten and whose bodies ache with pain as a result of this cannot help ventilating the beastly treatment meted out to them at the hands of the Jail authorities. The people who are weak-minded and poor, of course, have to submit themselves to the atrocities perpetrated on them. This is why very often the public at large as well as the Government completely remain in the dark about the treatment which the prisoners get from the Jail authorities. But now I avail of this opportunity to tell the hon. Minister the barbarous treatment meted out to the prisoners. Sir, the people confined therein are beaten mercilessly. They are subjected to the most filthy and obscene absuses. So much so that wooden " gullas " are thrust in their mouths. All this is done to prevent the culprit from thinking or writing anything independently. This method is adopted with a view to extorting statements from them or dictating to them to act as the Jail authorities want them to. They do so just to please the Chief Minister. It is possible that the prisoners may be having truck with some foreign country whom the present Government does not like. But let me make it abundantly clear to them that the Punjabis would never tolerate the acts of this Government— their patience has been exhausted. Is it justified to keep a man under police vigilence who has spoken against the Government? Sir, I can cite innumerable instances in this connection but the time at my disposal is so short that I am unable to relate them now. I wonder why the reports of our visits for Kangra have also been recorded. At every place the police staff was in persuit of us. We enquired of them as to why they followed us and not the Ministers. The reply to this question, they gave us was

[Shri Wadhawa Ram]
that they had been posted particularly for this purpose. In the circumstances, Sir, you can yourself imagine the plight of the people who are harassed by the police merely because they refuse to submit to its dictates.

Besides, Sir, the police parties launch raids with a view to detect illicit distillation of liquor. Even in this regard a number of dishonest practices are indugled in by them. A person whom the police wants to harass is arrested by the police planting on him a few bottles of country made liquor. This is a serious act of lawlessness which our own police force has created in our State. Incidently, Sir, I am reminded of another case. On the 19th February a Havaldar named S. Sardul Singh was taken into police custody. In fact the Deputy Superintendent of Police was himself involved in that case. But the Havaldar was detected in a case of decoity.

Mr. Speaker: Please wind up now.

Shri Wadhawa Ram: Well, Sir, I have concluded my speech. But before resuming my seat I cannot help saying that the imposition of restrictions under this clause will never enhance the prestige of this Government. Therefore, I urge that this clause be deleted.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the Clause be deleted.

That in the last two lines, the words "and to the disposal of........under this section" be deleted.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 *a.m. on Friday, the* 10*th April,* 1953

556 PSLA—282—4-5-54—CP and S., Pb., Chandigarh-

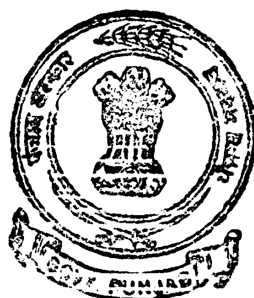
Punjab Legislative Assembly

Debates

10*th April* 1953

VOL. I—No. 23

Official Report



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 10*th April* 1953

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 *p.m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker* (*Dr. Satyapal*) *in the Chair.*

QUESTION HOUR (*Dispensed with*)

Mr. Speaker: To-day the Question Hour is dispensed with.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ADDITIONAL POLICE POST QUARTERED AT VILLAGE KAMALPUR, DISTRICT LUDHIANA.

383. Shri Ram Kishan : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any additional police post was quartered at Village Kamalpur, District Ludhiana between 15th August 1947 and 28th February 1953 ; if so, when, together with the date of its withdrawal ;

(b) the sanctioned strength of this police post ;

(c) (i) the actual cost incurred by the Government on each of the items which were taken into account while calculating the cost of the said police post ;

(ii) the actual amounts drawn from the treasury for each of the items referred to above ;

(iii) the estimated cost of this police post ;

(d) (i) the list of the Constables, Head Constables, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors of Police employed at the said police post ;

(ii) the salary and other allowances drawn by each one of them during his posting there ;

(iii) whether any of the police employees referred to in part (d)(i) above remained busy in the investigations and prosecutions of the criminal cases committed outside the limits of this village during the period of their posting at this police post; if so, the time spent by each one of them in each of these cases ;

(iv) the time spent on patrolling and other duties outside the limit of this village by each of the above-mentioned police employees in which the inhabitants of this village were not connected; if so, the time so spent by each one of them in this respect ;

[Shri Ram Kishan]

(e) (i) the total period for which each one of them remained present at this police post during his posting here and on duties outside the limits of this village in which the inhabitants of the village were connected including the investigation and prosecutions of the criminal cases committed within the limits of this village ;

(ii) the total period for which each of them remained on duties outside the limits of this village during his posting here ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) Yes ; from 15th September 1950 to 14th September 1951. It was withdrawn from 15th September 1951.

(b) One A.S.I. and 12 F.Cs., including contingency reserve.

(c) (i) and (ii) A statement marked 'C' is given below.

(c) (iii) Rs 13,820.

(d) (i) and (ii) A statement marked 'D' is enclosed.

(d) (iii) Yes ; A statement marked 'H' is placed below.

(d) (iv) A statement marked 'J' is attached herewith.

(e) Statements marked 'M' and 'N' are given below.

(ii) A statement marked 'P' is given below.

Statement 'C'

Item	Actual cost incurred by Government	Actual amount drawn from treasury
	Rs A. P.	Rs A. P.
Pay ..	5,968 3 0	5,968 3 0
Travelling Allowance ..	601 2 0	601 2 0
Dearness Allowance ..	4,211 12 0	4,211 12 0
Contingencies including Clothing and equipment ..	2,660 10 0	2,660 10 0
Pension Contribution ..	686 0 0	..

Statement 'D'

Serial No.	Name with rank	Salary and other allowance drawn
		Rs A. P.
1	A.S.I. Aya Singh ..	146 1 0
2	A.S.,I. Gian Singh ..	917 8 0
3	A.S.I. Ramji Dass ..	665 13 0
4	F. C. Ujagar Singh ..	726 0 0
5	F. C. Magher Singh ..	727 14 0
6	F. C. Harjit Singh ..	715 11 0
7	F. C. Babu Ram ..	719 9 0
8	F. C. Karnail Singh ..	762 13 0
9	F. C. Dasaundhi Ram ..	500 2 0
10	F. C. Siri Ram ..	248 7 0
11	F.C. Gurdial Singh ..	542 14 0
12	F. C. Devi Dayal ..	248 7 0
13	F. C. Jagir Singh ..	485 2 0
14	F. C. Dalip Singh ..	248 7 0
15	F.C. Gurdev Singh ..	487 7 0
16	F. C. Mohinder Singh ..	233 2 0
17	F. C. Surjit Singh ..	485 2 0
18	F. C. Amar Singh ..	233 2 0
19	F. C. Nahar Singh ..	117 0 0
20	F. C. Surinder Singh ..	606 8 0
21	F. C. Kapur Chand ..	262 0 0
22	F. C. Sham Singh ..	462 0 0

Statement 'H'

Time (in hours) spent on the investigation and prosecution of each Criminal case committed outside the limit of Village Kamalpur by each Officer attached to the Police Post Kamalpur.

Serial No.	Name of the Officer		Under section 458 I.P.C., P. S. Jagraon	Under section 19/11/78, State versus Nikka, P.S. Jagraon	196/51, under section 307/302 I.P.C., P. S. Jagraon	Under section 19/11/78, State versus Mansa, P.S. Jagraon	214/51, under section 457 I.P.C., P.S. Jagraon	34/51, under section 364 I.P.C., P. S. Khamanon	Under section 302 I.P.C., State versus Hari Singh, P. S. Jagraon	Under section 165/430 I.P.C., P.S. Jagraon	96/55, under section 457 I.P.C., P.S. Jagraon	280/51, under section 364 I.P.C., P. S. Jagraon	306/50, under section 325 I.P.C., P. S. Jagraon	219/51, under section 392 I.P.C., P. S. Jagraon	59/51, under section 325 I.P.C., P. S. Jagraon	132/51, P. S. Jagraon	39/51, under section 325 I.P.C., P. S. Jagraon	317/50, under section 324 I.P.C., P. S. Jagraon
1	A.S.I., Ramji Dass	..	60	29	4	44	11	16	26	15	57	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	F. C. Dalip Singh	..	60	32	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	F. C. Karnail Singh	..	60	..	8	33	..	..	..	8	32	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	F. C. Maghar Singh	..	60	..	41	..	..	16	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	F. C. Siri Ram	..	..	..	..	72	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6	F. C. Sham Singh	..	..	..	..	28	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7	F. C. Mohinder Singh	..	..	..	..	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	..
8	F. C. Amar Singh	..	..	..	..	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9	F. C. Surrinder Singh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	F. C. Babu Ram		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
11	A.S.I. Aya Singh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61	5	5	..	..	..	..
12	F. C. Gurdev Singh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	25
13	F. C. Jagir Singh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	..	..	..	..	..	..
14	F. C. Harjit Singh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	..	..	..	41
15	A.S.I. Gian Chand	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	66
16	F. C. Ujagar Singh	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	16

Statement 'J'

The time spent on Patrolling and other duties outside the limits of Village Kamalpur by each of the Police employees in which the inhabitants of this village were not connected.

Serial No.	Name of the Officer	Time spent (in hours)
1	A.S.I. Ramji Dass ..	377
2	A.S.I. Gian Chand ..	242
3	F. C. Amar Singh ..	303
4	F. C. Mohinder Singh ..	107
5	F. C. Surrinder Singh ..	250
6	F. C. Dalip Singh ..	94
7	F. C. Sham Singh ..	286
8	F. C. Karnail Singh ..	323
9	F. C. Maghar Singh ..	348
10	F. C. Ujagar Singh ..	336
11	F. C. Siri Ram ..	33
12	F. C. Babu Ram ..	206
13	F. C. Harjit Singh ..	246
14.	F. C. Nahar Singh ..	145
15	F. C. Jagir Singh ..	162
16	F. C. Gurdial Singh ..	78
17	F. C. Sarjit Singh ..	105
18	F. C. Kapur Chand ..	20
19	F. C. Gurdev Singh ..	167

Statement 'M'

[Chief Minister]

The total period for which each one of the Police employees remained present at the Police Post during his period of posting

Serial No.	Name of the Officer		TIME	
			Days	Hours
1	A.S.I. Ramji Dass	..	103	8
2	A.S.I. Gian Chand	..	145	21
3	A.S.I. Aya Singh	..	19	12
4	F. C. Amar Singh, No. 774	..	96	15
5	F. C. Mohinder Singh, No. 508	..	101	16
6	F. C. Surrinder Singh, No. 463	..	291	7
7	F. C. Dalip Singh, No. 415	..	94	23
8	F. C. Sham Singh, No. 735	..	200	11
9	F. C. Karnail Singh, No. 759	..	318	..
10	F. C. Maghar Singh, No. 208	..	331	1
11	F. C. Ujagar Singh, No. 51	..	323	19
12	F. C. Siri Ram, No. 293	..	109	9
13	F. C. Babu Ram, No. 705	..	323	13
14	F. C. Harjit Singh, No. 259	..	339	11
15	F. C. Nahar Singh, No. 314	..	53	1
16	F. C. Jagir Singh, No. 381	..	236	18
17	F. C. Gurdial Singh, No. 511	..	235	1
18	F. C. Kapur Chand, No. 565	..	128	16
19	F. C. Surjit Singh, No. 260	..	243	15
20	F. C. Devi Dyal, No. 463	..	114	18
21	F. C. Dasaundhi Ram	..	245	14
22	F. C. Gurdev Singh, No. 163	..	232	9

Statement 'N'

The total period for which each one of the officers remained on duties outside the limits of this village in which the inhabitants of the village were connected including the investigation and prosecutions of the Criminal cases committed within the limits of this village

Serial No.	Name of the Officer	Period (in hours)
1	A.S.I. Ramji Dass ..	757
2	A.S.I. Aya Singh ..	85
3	A.S.I. Gian Chand ..	504
4	F. C. Amar Singh	163
5	F. C. Mohinder Singh ..	225
6	F. C. Surrinder Singh ..	47
7	F. C. Dalip Singh ..	335
8	F. C. Sham Singh ..	486
9	F. C. Karnail Singh ..	657
10	F. C. Maghar Singh ..	324
11	F. C. Ujagar Singh ..	606
12	F. C. Devi Dyal ..	54
13	F. C. Siri Ram ..	70
14	F. C. Babu Ram ..	737
15	F. C. Harjit Singh ..	316
16	F. C. Nahar Singh ..	43
17	F. C. Jagir Singh ..	84
18	F. C. Dasaundhi Ram ..	58
19	F. C. Gurdial Singh ..	233
20	F. C. Kapur Chand ..	36
21	F. C. Gurdev Singh ..	161

Statement 'P'

[Chief Minister]

The total period (in hours) for which each of the Police employees remained on duties outside the limits of this village during the period of his posting

Serial No.	Name of Officer	Period in hours spent outside
1	A.S.I. Ramji Dass ..	1,336
2	A.S.I. Gian Chand ..	918
3	A.S.I. Aya Singh ..	156
4	F. C. Amar Singh ..	489
5	F. C. Mohinder Singh ..	368
6	F. C. Surrinder Singh ..	305
7	F. C. Dalip Singh ..	529
8	F. C. Sham Singh ..	805
9	F. C. Karnail Singh ..	1,128
10	F. C. Maghar Singh ..	815
11	F. C. Ujagar Singh ..	988
12	F. C. Siri Ram ..	183
13	F. C. Babu Ram ..	995
14	F. C. Harjit Singh ..	613
15	F. C. Nahar Singh ..	191
16	F. C. Jagir Singh ..	270
17	F. C. Gurdial Singh ..	311
18	F. C. Surjit Singh ..	105
19	F. C. Kapur Chand ..	56
20	F. C. Gurdev Singh ..	375
21	F. C. Devi Dayal ..	54
22	F. C. Dasaundhi Ram ..	58

WAR SERVICE BENEFIT TO EX-SERVICEMEN.

384. Sardar Hari Singh : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that under the existing rules, ex-servicemen are not allowed to count their war service rendered up to the age of 20 for the purpose of fixing their seniority, etc. ;

(b) wehth r it is also a fact that some officials were given seniority after counting their service rendered in the Military in the Punjab Civil Secretariat ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) Yes ; but only in cases where no minimum age has been prescribed in the Service Rules of the Service to which an ex-serviceman is appointed. Where however, the minimum age for entry into service has been prescribed, it is service below that age which is not to be taken into account.

(b) Yes ; because they were entitled to the concession according to rules.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO EX-SERVICEMEN IN THE STATE.

385. Sardar Partap Singh : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the land allotted to ex-servicemen in the Karnal District is for individual cultivation or co-operative cultivation ; and if former, the reasons therefor ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : The land allotted to Ex-servicemen in Karnal District is for co-operative cultivation.

IMPOSITION OF A FURTHER CUT ON THE ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO EX-SERVICEMEN

386. Master Partap Singh : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the reasons for imposing a further cut on the allotment of land in the case of ex-servicemen who had been given land in Multan as reward when at the time of previous allotment their lands were subjected to a cut of 40 per cent ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : Neither any further cut has been imposed on the land allotted on quasi-permanent basis to the ex-servicemen nor is any proposal for the levy of such a cut under consideration.

SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Speaker : I call upon the hon. Chief Minister to move his motion—

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Assembly at its rising to-day shall stand adjourned till 2 p.m. on Tuesday, the 14th April, 1953.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Assembly at its rising to-day shall stand adjourned till 2 p.m. on Tuesday, the 14th April 1953.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Assembly at its rising to-day shall stand adjourned till 2 p.m. on Tuesday, the 14th April, 1953.

The motion was carried.

RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSION ON THE PUNJAB SECURITY OF THE STATE BILL

CLAUSE 11

Mr. Speaker : Now there are two amendments to clause 11 which were discussed yesterday. I would put them to the vote of the House.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : But, Sir, the discussion was still going on on this clause.

Mr. Speaker : No. I am informed by my Secretary that we had finished with the discussion.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Sir, Shri Wadhawa Ram was still on his legs. You may be pleased to allow the discussion to continue.

Mr. Speaker : All right. I call upon Shri Wadhawa Ram to resume his speech.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, this clause makes a provision for the confiscation of property. May I ask the hon. Ministers, through you Sir, whether they would call it justice if all the members of a family are rendered liable to lose their property under this clause even though they be absolutely innocent. May I ask whether it would be just to deprive a whole family of its property on account of the sins of one member ? This clause will not serve any useful purpose except causing unnecessary harassment to the people. My submission is that our police has not now to depend upon out-of-date weapons. Now these believers in the cult of non-violence, occupying the Treasury Benches, have armed them with sten-guns, bren guns and many of the latest types of firearms. They have given proof of their belief in non-violence by fully equipping the police for all sorts of violence Let me narrate my own experience with these advocates of complete non-violence. When I escaped from jail and was caught again I was beaten by the police with lathis and sticks till my face and head were badly swollen. And then these devotees of non-violence began making fun of me by referring to my swollen face and saying that they had made a stout wrestler of me while I was very lean and emaciated before. In this way, Sir, these true followers of the cult of non-violence can make a wrestler of you in no time. (*Laughter*). Mahatma Gandhi, whom they claim to follow, was a great sage. He was the embodiment of non-violence and truth. But so far as the actions of his followers are concerned, I may tell you that I was at once put in fetters when I was brought to the jail. Sir, only the old Congressmen would know what it means to be in fetters. The present Congressmen sitting opposite cannot realise what it is to be in fetters. Not only that. The jail authorities would tie my fetters with the iron fence leaving me no space even to move about.

Mr. Speaker : What has all this to do with the clause under discussion ?

Shri Wadhawa Ram : I want to show, Sir, how much violence is used by these self-styled devotees of non-violence and how they are tarnishing the fair name of Mahatma Gandhi .

In the end I once again appeal to them to withdraw this clause.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, it would appear from this clause which makes a reference to Section 98 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, that the British did not know the art of administration but my hon. Friends here are well-versed in it. I would submit that although the British Government had created a very efficient and effective administrative machinery for the imposition of restrictions on the civil liberties of the people yet my Friends over there are not satisfied with it.

Now let me draw your attention to the most objectionable use in the past of the power to make a search which my Friends now propose to vest in all the magistrates. We know how the police plants arms at a place and then makes a raid and how its informers produce pistols from their own pockets at the time of search in order to implicate innocent people. All of us know that it is the usual practice with the police to institute false cases against the people and arrest innocent persons for illicit distillation of liquor while in reality the stills are worked by its own hirelings. But my hon. Friends are not satisfied with this. They are making a provision for the confiscation of property. The old Criminal Offenders Act, which has been repealed by the Central Government, was the instrument forged by the British Government to declare as criminal tribes those brave people who took part in the Freedom Movement of 1857, and now our Government wants to crush its political opponents with this measure. Under this Act they will confiscate the property of any political opponent who happens to possess even the literature of his party.

I know it for certain that posters and hand-bills pertaining to the activities of the R.S.S. are printed even at present in the presses owned by the top ranking leaders of the Congress Organisation. But the pity of it is that no authorities whatsoever care to stop them from undertaking such printing jobs. What for are these laws enacted then ? What is their utility if such Acts are not to be enforced against the people of their own ranks ? I wonder why the hon. Members sitting on the Treasury Benches do not search their own hearts ? Why do they impute motives to others? There is no denying the fact, Sir, that in the presses of those newspapers, the entry of which has been banned in Jammu and Kashmir State, the posters and other literature relating to the R.S.S. activities are being printed without any administrative check-up. In the circumstances, I cannot help saying that the enactment of such a law as is now before the House is simply tantamount to a raid on the civil liberties of the people. I know that the Government is enacting it because it has lost its hold on the masses.

You are aware, Sir, that the Britishers had also enacted such pieces of legislation for they wanted to perpetuate their reign of tyrany in India. They wanted to keep the Indian nation under bondage. Even the present Government seems to be out to deprive the people of whatever little rights they are enjoying and making slaves of them by passing this Bill. There already

[Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut]

exist such laws under which the people can be arrested and awarded punishment even on apprehension. But perhaps the Government is not content with those powers ? The tactics employed by the Government obviously go to reveal that it is determined to banish the rule of law from the State. Therefore, in the end, I would like to sound a note of warning to the party in power that the enactment of this Bill will completely shatter the public confidence in the ideology and principles of the Congress.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Bagha Purana) (*Punjabi*) : I would like to read out the contents of this Amendment.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member need not take the trouble of reading it. He should express his views on it.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Well, Sir, I have serious apprehensions that this vexatious provision of carrying out a search under this clause will result in increased litigation. We come across a lot of cases of this nature in our State. There is one Sardar Chanan Singh Bauria in my constituency. The agents of the "todi police" there.........."

Mr. Speaker : I may tell the hon. Member that this particular incident has no connection with this clause. He should, therefore, confine his remarks to the motion.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, I am referring to this case with particular reference to the provision for search. The policemen there managed to hide two bottles of illicit liquor in the fields of this man and thus got the fellow arrested after having lodged a report with the Police Station. The whole village including the members of the Panchayat are aware of this case.

Chief Minister : On a point of order, Sir. My submission is that the power to search is already there in an Act which is on the statute book. The hon. Member cannot attack that. He should criticise that part of the power which is intended to be given under this Bill.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot allow such individual cases to be discussed on the floor of the House. Owing to the case being *sub-judice*. I would like the hon. Member not to refer to it any more.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, the case has since been decided. Therefore, there is no question of its being *sub-judice*. That innocent person has been fined Rs 200. But the purpose of my mentioning this case is to enquire why an innocent prerson has been punished for no fault of his ?

Mr. Speaker : It is not an opportune moment to discuss the contravention of the law at present in force. The hon. Member can attack the provisions and the powers intended to be given to the police under this Bill. But, let me make it clear that the old stories do not fit in here.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, my submission is that the powers now sought to be given to the police will completely put the people at their mercy. Even now, the armed mounted police tour the villages to trace out clues pertaining to various cases and while doing so, they harass the villagers. But now with the enactment of this Bill, perhaps the Government wants to let loose a complete reign of terror in the State. Through you, Sir, I would

like to inform the hon. Members sitting on the Treasury Benches that the Government which gives so many powers to the police, powers even to commit innumerable atrocities on the people, cannot last long. It is, therefore, not in the public interest to delegate powers, now contained in this clause, to the police.The people have already got so many complaints against the behaviour of the police.

Another question which I wish to ask is, how will the wife of a detained person, who has got a baby of a month or two or who is going to bear a child within a month or so, manage to make her both ends meet ? What would be there for her to eat, wear and to bring up the baby with ? This is really a very notorious clause and it is bound to spell ruin to the entire State. In the circumstance I appeal to the Government to withdraw this clause.

Sardar Rajinder Singh Gyani (Rupar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I think the hon. Members preceding me would have been justified, if they had raised these objections when clause 10 was under discussion. I find that none of the hon. Friends from the Opposition who have taken part in the discussion of this clause is a lawyer. If there had been one amongst them, he would not have raised a discussion on this clause ; for it does not embody any provision which is likely to create any peculiar situation in the State. This is simply a consequential clause. Sir, as a matter of fact, there is every likelihood of such a situation, as has been referred to in this clause, arising in the State which may prove to be of potential danger to the security of the State. It is possible that a person who has organised, or is about to organise or is preparing to organise such activities which are bound to impair or impede the law and order situation in the State, may be working his campaign secretly. In case such a situation arises or is precipitated by persons indulging in subversive activities, I would like to enquire of the hon. Members from the Opposition to let us know how, in the absence of this clause, such a conspiracy can be unearthed and brought under control or how those people, can be detected who after having committed such crimes as are prejudicial to the security of the State, may be in hiding fully armed at some place ? How can the unlawful material be captured from them ? It is true that the clause does not embody any original provision. Each Magistrate is already empowered under Section 98 of the Criminal Procedure Code to deal with cases of such a nature. But there is no denying the fact that had this clause not been inserted in the Bill, there was every likelihood that in spite of the culprit having committed such an offence, despite his having acted in a manner prejudicial to the security of the State, and in spite of the objectionable material being housed within the precincts of a particular building, the people—under the protection of law—might have questioned the authority which empowered the officers to search a house by virtue of warrants issued by the Magistrates or arrest the persons who might have been in hiding in some place. I am strongly of the opinion that the Bill would lose its entire spirit if this clause is not retained in it. To my mind all the arguments advanced by the Opposition against this clause, do not hold water. They have almost wasted their breath over it.

Again, they might have been justified, had they objected to the wording of the clause, namely, "The State Government may impose a collective fine on the inhabitants of that (dangerously disturbed) area" embodied in clause 10 and said that amongst the inhabitants of that village there might be a

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number of peace-loving, law-abiding and innocent persons. But such an argument carries no weight particularly with regard to this very clause which clearly indicates that it will be enforced only against persons who have committed an offence, who possess illegal arms and above all whose activities are prejudicial to the security of the State. In the circumstances, Sir, I feel that this is a very innocent clause but if it is not allowed to exist, the very object of the Bill will be defeated.

Then, Sir, from the references which the hon. Members have made during the course of their speeches, it appears that they are unable to differentiate between the term 'State' and 'Government'. I may tell them that all the people who inhabit a particular territory constitute the 'State' whereas the 'Government' is a party which runs the administration of that 'State'. Their confusion of these two terms betrays their ignorance. Any Government which enacts laws with a view to maintaining the security of the State, has to keep in mind the wider interests of the masses. In order to safeguard the civil liberties of the people, therefore, it becomes imperative on the part of our Government to round up those elements which spread disruption and thus endanger the peace and tranquillity of the State. In the end, Sir, I would submit that retention of this clause in the Bill is most essential.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, it is not necessary that I should say some thing in order to rebut the arguments advanced by the Members of the Opposition because I know that they do not listen to reasoning. But, Sir, as speeches are published in the press and read by the people, I wish to clarify the whole position so that there may be no misunderstanding. I have explained this matter before and after the clarification made by my learned friend Gyani Rajindar Singh, there appears to be no need of my dwelling on it in detail. The sole object of this Bill is that we want to prevent certain persons from acting in the manner planned by them. The hon. Members are aware of the legal position. The preparation for an offence is not an offence under the Indian Penal Code. We want to take preventive action against a person while he is preparing to act in a certain manner. Does any law exist under which we can take such action ? The biggest proof of the soundness of the provisions of this clause lies in the fact that it is being opposed by the members sitting opposite. These things show that the law which we are going to enact is most appropriate and it will be quite effective.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the clause be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in the last two lines, the words "and to the disposal of....under this Section" be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 11 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 12

Mr. Speaker : I call upon Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut to move his amendments to Clause 12.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Clause be deleted.

That in lines 4—6, the words " and shall, if ......be non-bailable" be deleted.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that the Government wants to take action against persons while they are preparing for certain acts. It would be noticed that even the right of bail has been taken away under this clause. I find that the right of being released on bail existed even under those laws which were made by the British rulers and a person got the opportunity of proving his innocence. According to the restriction which is going to be imposed now the police will be able to arrest a person from whom even a very minor article of an objectionable nature is recovered. Our patriotic Government wants to take away the right which the British Government had given to the people. Everybody should have the right of proving his innocence before a court of law. Generally, the lower courts give decisions in favour of the prosecution.

Mr. Speaker : Every court commands respect. The hon. Member should refrain from making such references.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : When the question of separation of the Executive from the Judiciary was before the House, it was explained how the lower courts gave decisions according to the wishes of the Deputy Commissioners. The hon. Members do not require to be told this thing because it is a well-known fact.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should say those things which are permissible.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Well, Sir, my submission is that if a person wants to appeal to a higher court against the decision of a lower court, he should have the right of asking for being released on bail. In some cases it takes years to get decisions on appeals and it is not fair that a person should be kept in jail for long periods pending decisions on appeals. A person convicted by a lower court should be entitled to prove himself innocent before the court of appeal. The manner in which the lower courts deal with cases is known to everybody. The Deputy Commissioners interfere so much that the lower courts cannot give fair decisions. Justice can be got from the higher courts only and it would be an act of great injustice if the right of release on bail, pending decision of the appellate court, is taken away. I have moved two amendments. By my first amendment I have sought to get this clause deleted. If the offence under this law is going to be made cognizable, one must have at least the right of being released on bail. I find that gradually the people are being deprived of their liberties and the Congress Party alone will be allowed to enjoy freedom. These laws are being enacted for being applied against the opposition parties alone. The hon. Chief Minister said that our opposition to this Bill proved the necessity of this law. He should know that there is no guarantee that he

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will be on the Treasury Benches for all time to come. It is possible that this law may be used against him some day. I am voicing the general feeling of the public when I say that the right of bail must exist and the taking away of this precious right will be an act of grave injustice.

Mr. Speaker : Motions moved—

That the Clause be deleted.

That in lines 4—6, the words "and shall, if.........be non-bailable" be deleted.

Sardar Sarup Singh (Amritsar City) : Sir, the jurisprudence which governs us believes everyone to be innocent unless it is proved that one is guilty.

The high judicial pronouncements of the Courts of this country have held that except where one is charged with murder or something like that which is punishable with death or transportation for life, all accused charged with other offences can be bailed out without putting any impediments or obstacles in their way so that they can put up their defence counsels and refute or deny the charges levelled against them. Therefore, the provision made in the Clause viz., that if the offence is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to a period of one year it is non-bailable, goes sharply against those judicial pronouncements and is, therefore, retrograde and repressive. I, therefore, oppose this Clause.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, so far as clause 12 of this Bill is concerned, I think that it is a gift of the Congress Government to us after its five-years' rule. During the British regime many special enactments were made in which it was provided that the offences for which a sentence of three years or more is awarded would be non-bailable. To-day we find that under this Bill which is also a special enactment because it is being passed to deal with abnormal situation in the State such offences would also be cognisable and non-bailable. During the British regime when the Congress party along with other parties used to launch agitation against the Government and thus defied section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code even then the Government did not act in this way. At that time such offences fell under the purview of section 188 of the Criminal Procedure Code and were treated as non-cognisable. But now we find that such offences will be treated as cognisable under this clause. Those persons who contravene the provisions of this law will be challaned by the police and such an offence will be considered as non-bailable. I would ask that the Congress Government should compare itself with the British Government and see whether it is toeing the same path after the attainment of independence or making some better law for the State. But I am sorry to say that since the Congress Government has assumed the reins of office it has been pursuing a repressive policy in the State. It wants to suppress the Opposition parties by enacting such laws. In fact the cat was out of the bag when the hon. Chief Minister unwittingly remarked that he wanted to stifle the voice of the Opposition parties. We would have certainly supported the Government if such a law had been applied to a person or persons who committed acts of violence or worked in a manner prejudicial to the security of the State but it does not behove it to bring forward such a measure which aims at suppressing the voice of the political parties. From this clause it is abundantly clear that the Government intends to oppress and suppress the political parties and it is with this view that this offence is being made cognisable and

non-bailable. Do the Government consider that it is pursuing a right policy by enacting such a measure ? Do the Government feel that such a measure would be in the best interests of the State ? If by passing this measure it thinks that it is taking a right step then I must say it is sadly mistaken. I think that if the Congress has come into power after independence, it should not try to misuse its authority. The Government should be very liberal in the matter of giving the right of freedom of speech to the people. If the Congress claims that its ideology is better than that of the other parties it must give the people full opportunity to make criticism against the Government. It does not behove the Government to deny the right of freedom of speech to the people. I ask, are the present-day conditions abnormal in the State ? The Government can deal with all the parties effectively at the time of emergency under the existing law. I can emphatically say that no person who has the welfare of the State at heart would ever like that such a measure be enforced in the State. The object of clause 12 is only to suppress the people. With these words, Sir, I oppose this clause.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I have not felt the least surprised to hear the speech of my hon. Friend Sardar Ajmer Singh because he was not present in the House when discussion on this Bill was going on. He is to be excused for this as he could not naturally know what passed in the House in his absence. My hon. Friend Sardar Sarup Singh has remarked that the offence of murder should be made cognisable and bailable.

Sardar Sarup Singh : The bail is granted where the offence falls short of murder.

Chief Minister : Very well, my hon. Friend has said that the offence of murder should be made bailable. I think it is a matter of opinion. I would submit that when the offence of commission of murder is non-bailable and cognisable then if the very life of the State is exposed to grave danger how can such offence be made bailable? Whenever the question of releasing any person on bail is to be considered the court has to see whether the accused person should be bailed out or not. So, it is not for us but for the courts to pronounce their judgment whether persons guilty of such and such offence should be bailed out or not. My hon. Friend Sardar Sarup Singh has cited certain judicial pronouncements in this behalf and I think that instead of bringing such matters in the House they should be left for the courts to decide. To declare any offence as cognisable or non-bailable depends upon the nature of each offence. It is to be seen whether the offence affects the security of the State ; estranges our relations with foreign countries and undermines decency or morality. An hon. Member has suggested that the words 'morality and decency' should be deleted from this clause. I regret that I cannot accept this suggestion as we feel totally averse to such an idea.

Is it because we want to preserve decency and morality that our hon. Friends are complaining that we are encroaching upon the civil liberties of the people ? Sir, before the actual offence is committed, there is a time when preparations are made to comit it. Some activities may be of a trifling nature in themselves but they are fraught with grave and dangerous consequences just as there are things harmless in themselves but capable of working havoc if used improperly. If, for instance, some hon. Gentleman

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takes a box of matches with him to a thickly-populated area of a town and sets fire to a house, the result can well be imagined. Can we allow a person to do so ? It is the results of such activities that are bothering us and exercising our minds. I repeat what I said yesterday. This measure has been in force in the State for sometime. Sir, may I ask my hon. Friends if they can give a single instance of its having been used to suppress, crush or decimate any political party during the last one year. If allowing underground persons of a party to come out and carry on propaganda is decimating a party, we are certainly guilty of it ; if releasing the detained persons of a party and giving them complete freedom of propagating their views is suppression of a party, we certainly plead guilty to this charge. And, Sir, if we released members of a party which is not represented here and gave them an opportunity to live like good citizens, was that an attempt to crush that party ? How should I make it clear to my hon. Friends that this Bill is not aimed either at any party or at any group ? How can a Government discriminate as between one party and another ? I have not the least hesitation in declaring that if any person belonging to the Congress is led astray and tries to capture power by violent means, then this measure will be used against him just as it will be used against similar persons of any other party. Legally speaking, it will be used only against those who take part in activities of a violent nature . The question of its being used against any particular party does not arise. It will certainly be used against those who try to undermine the security of the State. To those who tauntingly remark that we claim to have faith in democracy, my reply is that it is the result of that conviction that even those who have no faith in it are occupying seats in this House. Had we been believers in their ideology, they would not have been here. (*Cheers*) Sir, I am sorry because our reply to the criticism has perforce to follow the latter's pattern. If you have no objection, we may in future say nothing in reply to the stock arguments of our hon. Friends opposite and thus avoid wasting the time of the House.

Mr Speaker. Question is—

That the Clause be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr Speaker. Question is—

That in lines 4—6, the words "and shall, if...... be non-bailable " be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 12 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Mr Speaker : I would just make a submission to you. Yesterday, after having been pained by the trend of the speeches that were delivered, I made a general observation that the standard of the debate should be kept at as high a level as a democratic institution like ours was supposed to keep. Unfortunately, this observation of mine has been taken to mean

that I intentionally or un-intentionally criticised the conduct of some party or of a Member who took part in the debate. I made it clear that it was not my intention to hurt the feelings of any party or of any hon. Member. Since it is my bounden duty to see that the proceedings are conducted in an orderly manner and that decorum is maintained, I made that observation.

Today I have got with me various rulings from May's Parliamentary Practice which clearly establish my point that there should be no challenges, counter-challenges, insinuations or charges in the speeches delivered by the hon. Members in the House.

I very much value the Chief Minister's remarks that instead of making an observation of a general nature I should have called the Member concerned to order at that time. I would, however, like to point out that there are so many Members who often indulge in undue criticism and I do not think that you would like that after every minute I should call a Member to order when he or she begins to indulge in recriminations or speaks on irrelevant matters.

I once again say without any equivocation that I never intended to hurt the feelings of any Member of any party. But I am still convinced that the level of the debate did not come up to a standard which a very responsible body like ours should have kept. I sincerely hope that this request of mine will be kept in mind that speeches should not contain any challenges, counter-challenges, innuendoes, mendacious charges, criticism of character or antecedents or behaviour of any hon. Member. Good temper and moderation are the characteristics of parliamentary language and it is highly desirable that when a Member is convassing opinion of others he should be very polite and. courteous in his speech. Bad temper is not conducive to sound argument and harsh words break no bones.

So I earnestly appeal to the hon. Members to rise to the occasion and prove equal to the task. They should scrupulously take care not to let the honour and dignity of the House be smirched by any words or deeds which are offensive.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : I am most gratful to you, Sir, for the very great consideration that you have, as is your wont, shown for this House. If I may be permitted to say, Sir, no assurance from you was ever called for. Who is there in this House, and who does no know that you had all this time, since you have adorned this Chair, been jealous of the dignity and high reputation of this House. (*Cheers*). There was not for a second any thought in my mind when I made my most respectful submission yesterday that the Chair had intended voluntarily or involuntarily to hurt the feelings of any one or cast aspersions on anyone. Not at all. Far be it from me even to suggest that that would be the meaning of my respectful submission. For that matter I had only suggested that the Chair might be perhaps less lenient than it had been and should not let anyone go with a mere warning of a general nature where stern action was necessary. I, Sir, on behalf of the House assure you that under your able guidance we shall try to respect your wishes to the utmost of our capacity. (*Cheers*). It is absolutely necessary that the standard of debate in the House should be of the highest order. We are here to discuss these problems in the interest of the common man, as we claim it. I agree with you that we should show our humble spirit for him. I am also in complete accord with you that in-

[Chief Minister]

nuendoes, charges and counter charges take away from the dignity of the House. I, therefore, assure you once again that there was absolutely nothing, nothing in my mind when I made that submission and with the utmost respect, I am capable of, I may submit that when I had said that I thought that perhaps somebody might be named and in that case it would have better effect. It would be a lesson for those who wanted to indulge in that pastime. My view is that that pastime should not be made a cheap one. Anybody who indulges in that shall do so at his own cost. Thank you, Sir, for the very great consideration you have shown and I reciprocate the feelings and confidence that you have expressed in the House. Before I resume my seat, I would again assure you that nothing absolutely was in my mind and if at all the Chair might have felt or might have got an impression that anything else was intended, I shall be very sorry, if the Chair carried that impression.

Mr. Speaker : I am very grateful to the Leader of the House for making such graceful remarks about me and also for his assurance to keep the level of the debate high.

Shri Teg Ram : Sir, we, the members who do not know English, have not been able to follow what you have said in English, nor have we followed what has been said by the hon. Chief Minister in the same language. Therefore a summary of this debate may kindly be read out to us.

Mr Speaker : This dispute does not concern you. Besides, such things should be said in English.

CLAUSE 13

Mr. Speaker : Now Clause 13 is under consideration. I call upon Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit to move his amendment. I hope he will also hold out an assurance that, on his part, the level of the debate will be kept very high.

Sardar Harkishen Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Clause be deleted.

Sir, as regards the sentiments expressed by you for keeping the debate at a high level, I may submit that even before, it has been our constant endeavour and it would continue to be so, that the level of the debate should be kept high. I hope that the whole of the House will gladly act upon your advice. Now coming to the amendment I have just now moved, I beg to submit that according to this Bill, the Government will get very wide powers. Under these powers, the movements of the people can be restricted; they can be interned in their villages or externed from them. Under these powers, a person spreading rumours can be severely punished and the property of a person about whom an informer has given the report that he gave shelter to an absconder cannot only be attached just on the basis of that report but also disposed of for the realisation of the fine imposed on that person. Does it not mean, Sir, that, if it is proved afterwards that the property of that person was wrongly disposed of on the basis of a wrong report of an officer, then that officer should be properly punished. But what we find is that instead of punishing him, the Government has tried to protect that officer under this clause 13.

Sir, even before, there were laws regarding the attachment of properties but the attached properties were not disposed of. Now even after getting the special powers for the disposal of attached properties, the Government wants to protect those officers whose guilt is also proved. It wants to give full freedom to its officials to act as they please under clause 13. Regarding their acts done in good faith, no action will be taken against them and no punishment will be given to them.

Sir, all sorts of laws exist for suppressing the Opposition. I think that the worst sections of all the bad and good laws have been incorporated in this Bill. All this has been done to crush the Opposition, as I have already said, under the pretext of safety of the State. You yourself realise how far it is fair or proper to dispose of properties worth lakhs of rupees after attaching them on the basis of false reports and thus to cause huge losses to the owners and then to take no action against the guilty officers. Does justice demand that these guilty persons should be protected? Not at all. But we know that these guilty persons would be the same persons who got our Congressite brethren sent to gaol in Congress movements by making false reports against them. I would, therefore, submit that the officers about whom it is proved that the property of a certain person was confiscated on account of their false reports or false evidence should be adequately punished and under clause 13 they should be given no protection.

Sir, after reading clause 13, it becomes quite clear that in the presence of this law, the Government officials will have no fear whatsoever and they will harass the people any way they like. There is no check on them against the misuse of this law. They will know that every improper act on their part will be taken to have been done in good faith and no action will be taken against them even when the case against them stands proved. I, therefore, ask what is the motive in incorporating this clause in the Bill. If the Government is honest, what is the hesitation in punishing the guilty officers? I think such a clause should not be there. If it is deleted, the officers will remain cautious and would do no improper thing. The deletion of this Clause will be a sort of warning to them. But the real purpose of the Government is different. Although the hon. Chief Minister may say any thing, yet the fact remains that the real purpose of the Government is to crush the Opposition on the basis of false report submitted by the officers and yet keep them protected. I believe that it is a very reasonable demand from our side that Clause 13 be deleted.

If others are to blame, then they should be punished and in case the officers are at fault, they should not be spared. In the circumstances, I would submit that this amendment should be accepted by the Government in the name of democracy.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Clause be deleted.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, this clause does not make a good augury. Whether it does not augur well for the Congress or for some other party, is rather difficult to say. However, this clause goes to the very root of the Bill. Clause 13 confers vast powers on the executive which should not be given in any democratic country. I say, would not the courts even in the absence of this clause verify whether or not an office did

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]

an act in good faith and whether or not he had any justification for doing that ? The presence of this clause shows that the Congress has some other motive in its mind but such a thing is against the principles of democracy. I particularly invite the attention of the Chief Minister to sub-clause 2. It runs as follows—

> No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against the State Government or except with the sanction of the State Government, against any of its officers, for any damage caused or likely to be caused by anything in good faith done or intended to be done under, or in pursuance of, this Act.

It means that unless and until permission is given by the Government no suit can be brought against the Government or any of its officials. This is not a good provision. Such vast powers should not be given to the executive. The result of making such a provision will be that the officers will always try to please the party in power and do improper things without any kind of fear. They will try to suppress all movements started against the Congress—not against the States—by all fair and foul means. They will do so because they will have the protection of this clause. The High Courts of our country have held that sedition is no crime and that disaffection can be created against the Government of the day by delivering speeches. Sections 124-A and 153-A of the I. P. C. have been held *ultra vires* of the constitution of our country. The law of the land prohibits only one thing and it is this that nothing can be done against the State. But agitation can be made against a Government. And if protection is given to the officers as is intended under this clause, it will mean that the Government has no respect for the judgments of the courts. In case a Government makes a law by virtue of which "no suit..shall lie against the State Government or except with the sanction of the State Government against any of its officers for any damage. ......in good faith done ", it clearly means that it has no confidence in its own courts. Otherwise, why should the Government decide the question of good faith ? I think conferring such a power on the executive is against the principles of democracy. A Government of a demoractic country should have full faith in the courts. I say that permission may be necessary for *bona fide* acts but so far as *malafide* acts are concerned, no permission is required. This is a question which relates to evidence. By the coming into existence of this Act, the people will be debarred from proceeding against the officers and this is what the Government wants.

Mr. Speaker, I know what is going to be the reply to my criticism. It will be said that in the absence of this clause the officials will be unnecessarily harassed. It is altogether a hollow argument. We don't desire that no protection should be given to the officers but this does not mean that they should be allowed to do whatever they like. The Chief Minister was good enough to say that this Act had not been used for the last one year. If it is so, what is the need for this Bill ? (Chief Minister : I had said that it had not been improperly used.) I am to submit that no opportunity was provided to see whether or not it was properly used. Such a thing could only be decided by the courts and it was never taken to them. This Act is hanging over the heads of the people like the sword of Damocles. Of course, such measures can be enacted or Ordinances promulgated in cases of emergency but what is the need of passing such laws when all is right in the State? What is the good of hanging the Damocles' sword over the heads of the people ? I think it won't bring any credit to the Congress.

Sardar Sarup Singh (Amritsar City) : Sir, I take great exception to this Clause because it takes out a certain category of persons from the purview of law. It is stated in this Clause that :—

> No suit shall lie against any of the Officers of the State for any damage caused or likely to be caused by anything in good faith done or intended to be done under, or in pursuance of, this Act.

Now, I hope, Sir, the Chief Minister lives in the Punjab and knows a bit of the conditions that obtain in the State.

Mr. Speaker : Is that your presumption?

Sardar Sarup Singh : I am saying so because anybody who knows the conditions that obtain in the State would not have favoured the retention of this Clause in the Bill. This Clause is totally unsound and I apprehend that it will give an unrestrained licence to the officers of the State to abuse the extensive powers proposed to be vested in them and to take excessive or vindictive action against certain people.

I presume the Chief Minister is aware of the fact that the Police resorts to " padding " in so many cases brought before the Courts. When asked why they do so, they say 'because we have to show some Karguzari to the Government and unless we get false witnesses and rope them in such cases, we cannot show any Karguzari to the Government'. Now when such is the state of affairs, can we honestly and conscientiously agree to pass this Clause ? Here I am reminded of the high-handedness of a police official. In 1949 in Delhi one meat-wala (butcher) was detained for over four months under the Preventive Detention Act just because he refused to give a seer of meat to a Police Sub-Inspector. Would the hon. Chief Minister say that that was done in " good faith " ? We know, Sir, that police officials often perpetrate atrocities on innocent and harmless persons and their actions are criticised in the Press and by the Courts and the public.

In view of this, to take out any category of persons or officers from the purview of law and to make them feel that they can do anything with impunity would be a great injustice to the population because such wide powers as are proposed to be vested in the officers would not only be abused but would also constitute a great danger and nuisance to the State. Therefore, I oppose this Clause.

Sardar Nidhan Sinhgh (Mehna) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, this Bill has been introduced in the House by the same Congress Party which was organised by Mr. Hume so that the people of this country may be able to give expression to their views under its leadership. But I am constrained to remark that the same Congress does not now care for the agony of the starving people who are being stifled still further . I may warn the Government that after the enactment of this Bill the Government would not be able to take action against the corrupt officers. The very act of introducing this Bill in the House constitutes a serious danger to the present Government and I feel that the title of the Bill should be "The Punjab Security of the Ministry Bill". Sir, we are crying hoarse that the Judiciary should be separated from the Executive but Government has paid a deaf ear to our demand and on the contrary it wants to give still wider powers to its officers through these clauses which provide that no legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act, howsoever wrong the action may be.

[Sardar Nidhan Singh]

Mr. Speaker, in this connection I am reminded of a story. Once a jackal having gone out in search of its food found a piece of paper from a heap of filth and brought it to its she-jackal . When asked by her what it was he said that the Lambardars of the surrounding villages had unanimously decided to grant them permission to visit the village at any time they liked. Thereupon the she-jackal insisted upon visiting the village at the same time. When they reached near the village they heard the barking of the dogs. The she-jackal asked her husband to show the permission paper to the dogs which was awarded by the Lambardars. But he said "I am sorry none of them appears to be literate as to be able to read it". (*Laughter*). So Mr. Speaker the difficulty is that none of them is rational and thoughtful.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Chief Minister) (*Hindi*) : Sir, when I was listening to the speech of my hon. Friend Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit I was also reading a copy of this Bill. When he remarked that this Bill would cause a havoc in the State and even then no action would be taken against the officers, I found that the word ' good faith ' had been given in my copy but thought that the same might not have been inserted in the copy supplied to him. Ordinarily, a person can interestedly omit the word ' good faith' in order to support his own argument. Mr. Speaker, it would not surprise me if a person, ignorant of law of the country, advances such arguments. But, it becomes really very surprising when a well-informed person passes such remarks. What I want to submit is that law always affords protection to a person who does or intends to do any act in ' good faith '. These sections contain a reply to their arguments which provide that—

> 13. (1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under, or in pursuance of, this Act."

If my Friends want to get somebody punished by a court of law for certain action of his and he takes shelter under this clause by declaring that he acted in good faith my hon. Friends will be free to prove that he had not acted in good faith. I would explain the necessity for protection for acts done in good faith provided in sub-clause (2) by means of an illustration. Suppose an official takes into his possession a certain perishable article. Now such an article has to be disposed of as soon as possible. But when that article has been disposed of the owner comes forward to claim that his article has been simply thrown away and that he has thereby sustained a loss of Rs 100. This protection has been provided to meet such eventualities. Surely, if an official has acted in good faith it is imperative that he should be given such protection.

Now, Sir, my hon. Friend Sardar Ajmer Singh has said that the number of the clause, i.e., 13 is in a uspicious. My submission is that this number cannot be replaced ; nor has any one of us the power to do away with it for good. Sir, I find that the clause of the Gurdwara Act which we are going to amend bears the same number too. Perhaps he would like to avoid that also. Again, when anyone claims that a certain act was done in good faith the court will find out whether or not it was done in good faith. Sir, we have full confidence in our judiciary and we are fully confident that our Government will never interfere with the activities of the judiciary.

My hon. Friend Sardar Nidhan Singh has tried to be humorous. I want to tell him that he can go with this "*parwana*" anywhere he likes. We have given it and any " gidar " (jackal) is welcome to it. But let me make

it clear that if any " gidar " begins to howl and growl the *parwana* will become ineffective at once. In fact the *parwana* is provided by our Constitution and thus every " gidar " has the liberty to take it wherever he likes. However, it should be remembered that if some other animal appears in the garb of a " gidar " he simply cannot escape detection. In the end I must say that I cannot understand why an official acting in good faith should not be given this sort of protection.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Clause be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr Speaker : Question is —

That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 14

Mr Speaker : Now Clause 14 is before the House for its consideration.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the purport of this clause is that the actions taken under the previous laws such as the Punjab Security of the State Act, 1951 (President's Act No. 1 of 1951) and Punjab Security of the State (Amendment) Act 1951 (President's Act No. III of 1951) and other laws enacted in the days of the Bhargava Ministry will not be cancelled. I would submit that those were abnormal times and the laws made in that period were also of an abnormal nature. Moreover, that Ministry was anything but a Ministry. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if there has been a Ministry like that in any part of the world. The Opposition at that time was very small in number and the Government commanded a large majority. We have not seen any Ministry being crushed under its own weight as was the case with that one.

Mr Speaker : Please avoid discussing that Ministry.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Sir, the present Ministry has been elected by the people with a new verdict. The new Government did not start with the advent of independence in 1947. It came into existence after our Constitution had been framed and brought into force. Our present Assembly may be more exacting than its predecessor but it was elected under the new Constitution. My submission is that if those previous Acts are going to be repealed by the passage of this clause then all the actions taken against the people under those Acts should also be cancelled. The people who were jailed under those Acts and who are still behind the bars should be released forthwith. Similarly, the properties confiscated as well as the fines realised in that connection should be returned. I know the Chief Minister will argue that it is not possible to revise or reverse the actions taken under those Acts. But, Sir, this is the first Asembly elected under the new Constitution and, therefore, I am of the opinion that it is competent to reverse those actions and return the properties confiscated and fines realised under those laws.

Sardar Rajinder Singh Gyani (Rupar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, from the argument which my hon. Friend Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina , has advanced, it can conveniently be concluded that he has not cared to study the consequences which might have resulted in the event of carrying out certain amendments in the existing law. Through you, Sir, I would like to tell him that whenever an Ordinance is promulgated, it is then introduced in the State Assembly in the form of a Bill which consequently may become an Act. Thereafter, if some amendment is carried out in the Act, then by means of an Ordinance when the Ordinance is enacted , the amendment is deemed to have been in force even prior to the enactment of the amending Act. The position prior to enactment is not affected. Rather the *status-quo* is maintained. Similar is the position in the present case. The punishments awarded or the properties confiscated, prior to the enactment of this Bill, in accordance with the provisions made in the President's Act cannot be undone. It is because of the fact that the present Act will step in, the moment the President's Act is repealed. Since there will be no gap between the expiry of the President's Act and the enforcement of this Act, the position established and the punishments awarded heretofore will be maintained. There is nothing *ultra vires or* unconstitutional about it. I, therefore, feel that the argument, i.e., all the sentences awarded prior to the repeal of the President's Act should be remitted, is a ridiculous one and not based on legal principles. Nevertheless, it is not worth taking serious notice of because the hon. Member who advanced the argument is not conversant with law.

Besides, he has many a time referred to the constitutional aspects of the case. But since he has no knowledge of Law, this argument, too, does not call, Sir, any reply from me. In the circumstances, the sentences heretofore awarded would remain unchanged. If, however, they are remitted then such an act will itself become an unconstitutional one. This argument, therefore, does not hold water.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, these hon. Members are very fond of making speeches on each matter irrespective of the fact whether or not they understand its real import. I think it is better for a person, who is ignorant of the real position, to keep mum over it. Therefore, I associate myself with all that has been said by hon. Friend, Sardar Rajinder Singh, on the subject. But for the information of the hon. Members sitting opposite, I would like to say that Clause 14 contains a clear reference to the effect that immediately on the commencement of this Act, the Punjab Security of the State Act, 1951 (President's Act No. 1 of 1951) and the Punjab Security of the State (Amendment) Act, 1951 (President's Act No. III of 1951) would stand repealed but notwithstanding such a repeal, any action taken in exercise of the powers conferred by such Acts, shall continue in force and shall be deemed to have been taken under the corresponding provision of this Act. This is not an old law. This was enacted during the President's regime. Constitutionally too, it is imperative for an Act to cease to operate when a similar Act is brought into force. This was why the President's Act had to be replaced.

Besides, Sir, my hon. Friends of the Opposition have urged upon the Government, which has been installed into office purely on democratic principles, to start with a clean slate. Sir, you may be aware, that many a time I have been called as a tactless man. They say that it is something to oblige a person, but what is the use of kissing a sleeping child ? Nevertheless with a view to ushering in a new era of democracy in the State, we

started functioning with a clean Slate. In order to implement our programme, we set free all the prisoners in the State who were confined in the various Jails. They were discharged irrespective of the party affiliations and political ideologies. In this way, Sir, we cleaned the so-called dirty State. But, Sir, how can we untie the knots thereafter tied by them ? It is, of course, difficult for us to do that. In the circumstances, we should not be blamed when they themselves adopt conflicting attitudes. Moreover, we were prepared to reconsider their cases provided they had displayed some improvement in their attitude.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 14 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

SCHEDULE

Mr. Speaker : I call upon Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut to move his amendment.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That part (f) be deleted.

I have tabled this amendment for I apprehend that this part of the Schedule will directly affect the Trade Unions. Sir, it goes without saying that the previous Government used to work in all its spheres on the advice of the astrologers but now the present Government itself seems to have acquired proficiency in this science. Perhaps my friends have foreseen that certain conflicts are going to take place at certain places at some particular moments and have, therefore, made haste to enact this piece of legislation !

Minister for Public Works : Is it not progress ?

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : To foretell is not progress. That is why I say that the administration can not be run with the help of astrology. We should be realists. Now coming to the proposed amendment, my submission is that all the industrial concerns and factories work hard with a view to increase production of manufactured goods essential for the life and progress of the people in the country. The labour being the prime factor in this direction has to play an important role in the accomplishment of this cherished object. I have serious apprehensions that the Government will operate this clause for the suppression of labour whenever it raises its voice for the acceptance of its demands at the hands of the factory owners or the Government. True, they have held out an assurance that the provision of this clause will be made use of only in cases of unlawful strikes. But, Sir, we have a bitter experience that even the legitimate strikes are declared unlawful by the Government. Therefore, we are sure that this Act will be enforced against the labourers whenever they agitate for the redress of their grievances . Sir, as a matter of fact, the labour organisations not only exist in India but also in almost all the countries of the world. Now they are sure to fly a ' Red Flag ' whenever they have to organise an agitation to acquire their legitimate rights, for the colour of the Flag indicates the blood they have shed to achieve their righteous cause. This 'Red Flag ' has its own history.

[Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut]

It is a long story as to how the workers dyed this flag with their own blood. They have been struggling for years for proper wages, lesser hours of work and against the fines imposed on them. It is after a long struggle that they succeeded in getting the Trade Union Act passed, which gave them the right to go on strikes. Under this law even the strikes will be termed as acts of sabotage. I know how the Government acts. At Ludhiana, the labourers went on a strike and a compromise was effected between them and the factory-owners. But in spite of that compromise, cases are still going on against the labourers in the Courts.

Chief Minister : On a point of Order, Sir. The hon. Member is talking about the flag of a certain Party and the working conditions of labourers which have got no connection with the Schedule under discussion. He may please be asked to confine his observations to the Schedule.

Mr. Speaker : I would request the hon. Member to speak on the Schedule.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : I am referring to that incident to show how the labourers are treated. An Advisory Board has been constituted. On going through the decisions given by it during the last three months I find that all these were against the labourers. All sorts of things are being done against the workers. It will now be possible to take action against them on the plea that they have committed acts of sabotage. While we have been struggling for the rights of the labourers, we always wanted the industry in the State to progress. The example of China, where factories are privately owned, is there before us.

Chief Minister : On a point of Order, Sir. The hon. Member is speaking on irrelevant matters. In the first place, he is giving a dissertation on the working conditions of field workers and others, which has got nothing to do with the Schedule. He should be asked to speak on the Schedule. He can say that the provisions relating to the maintenance and working of naval, military and air force works, railways, air transport, including aerodromes canals etc., etc., should not be included in the Schedule.

In the second place, the hon. Member is indirectly criticising Clause 2, which reads like this —

> No person shall do any act with intent to impede the working of, or to cause damage to (a) any building, vessel, machinery, apparatus or other property used, or intended to be used, for the purpose of Government or any local authority, etc., etc., etc.

Since this Clause has already been passed by the House, the hon. Member cannot criticise it. He can only speak in connection with those works or industries which are included in the Schedule.

Mr. Speaker : I think the hon. Member is suggesting that certain industries should not be included in the Schedule.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : I suggest that this part of the Schedule should be deleted. In favour of this suggestion, I adduce two reasons. The part under reference reads thus —

> ' any industry, business or establishment engaged in the production or supply to the public of any commodity essential to the life of the public '.

The labourers secured some rights after a prolonged struggle and while I wish that they should not be deprived of these I also want the industry in the State to flourish. The example of China is there. The factories and industrial concerns in that country are privately owned but the factory-owners can make only reasonable profits and they have got to pay suitable wages to the labourers. This has resulted in co-operation between the factory-owners and the labourers and the industry there is making progress.

In the end, Sir, I would submit once again that the portion of the Schedule referred to by me should be deleted.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That part (f) be deleted.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a few words with regard to sub-clause (6) of the Schedule. The words used in it are—'any industry, business or establishment engaged in the production or supply to the public of any commodity essential to the life of the community'. In the presence of these words there is nothing which will not fall within the purview of this law. If a cook engaged in a hotel absents himself, he is liable to be arrested on the ground that cooking of food is essential for the life of the community. If a peasant cannot go to his fields for certain reasons, he can be arrested on the plea that agriculture is the chief industry of the State and the production of food is essential. In the presence of this sub-clause nobody will be able to escape this law. If a Head-Constable or a Sub-Inspector of Police wants to arrest some person he will ask somebody to report that that person did not cook food or go to the fields. I submitted once before also that the laws should be passed after due consideration and the consequences of the proposed measures must be kept in view. It appears that these words existed in some Act where these must have been defined but these have been incorporated in this Bill without giving proper thought to the matter. The Government is justified in trying to ensure safety of the State but it certainly does not desire that anybody should be able to live here in peace. If the Government considers it essential for the safety of the State it may get this law passed but it should not be enforced unless the conditions in the State demand its application. There is no need of applying it soon after its passage. I would like to submit once again, Sir, that the amendment proposing the deletion of part (f) to the Schedule be accepted.

Sardar Sarup Singh (Amritsar City) : Sir, I am amazed at the shocking ignorance of the framers of this Bill. Although there are no naval works in this State, yet a provision relating to the maintenance of naval works in this State has been included in the Schedule.

Sir, with regard to part (f) of the Schedule, I apprehend that if it is passed, the entire life of the community would be stifled and thrown at the mercy of petty officials of the State. Mr. Speaker, this would be a state of affairs which would be intolerable and would lead to an irksome situation. For example, any innocuous exercise of a right by a person connected with any industry, business or establishment in the State would be taken to mean as threatening the security of the State. Now this is a preposterous position and I hope the House will refuse to pass the Schedule and throw it out.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, my hon. Friends advance arguments for arguments' sake, and conveniently ignore other things. I would ask them, if wheat-flour is to be sent to any part of the State and flour mills are working and some people try to impede the working of those mills then should the Government remain silent ? If during the winter season the mills are engaged in manufacturing woollen cloth and the Government directs them to prolong the shifts and some people try to impede the working of those mills then should the Government remain a silent spectator? Similarly, there are also other commodities essential to the life of the community such as water, electricity. For this reason we have made a provision in the Bill that—

> No person shall do any act with intent to impede the working of, or to cause damage to any industry, business or establishment engaged in the production or supply to the public of any commodity essential to the life of the community.

If such a contingency arises then I wonder if my hon. Friends would say that powers should not be given to the Government to deal with the situation. I may tell them that such things are conceived in the interest and safety of the State. It is not the case that the Government is applying this law to any handloom factory. The aggrieved persons have been given the right under this Bill to make a representation against the order. I may point out to the hon. Members that the activities of the workers are considered lawful. It is, therefore, not in the fitness of things that such a false propaganda be made against the Government that under this law the normal functioning of shops and factories would come to a standstill. I may tell them again that the activities of the workers are considered lawful and do not come under the purview of this law.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That part (f) be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Schedule be the Schedule of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill

The Assembly then divided.

AYES 56

NOES 20

The motion was declared carried

AYES

Name	Name
1. Abdul Ghani Dar, Shri	27. Hari Singh, Sardar.
2. Abhai Singh, Shri	28. Jagdish Chand, Shri.
3. Amir Chand Gupta, Shri	29. Kartar Singh, Sardar.
4. Babu Dayal, Shri	30. Khem Singh, Sardar.
5. Baloo Ram, Shri	31. Khushi Ram Gupta, Shri.
6. Balwant Singh, Thakore	32. Kidar Nath Saigal, Shri.
7. Banarsi Dass Gupta, Mahashe	33. Mam Chand, Shri.
8. Bhim Sen Sachar, Shri	34. Mehar Singh, Shri.
9. Chand Ram Ahlawat, Shri	35. Mohan Singh Jathedar, Sardar.
10. Chandi Ram Verma, Shri	36. Nand Lal, Shri.
11. Chuni Lal, Shri	37. Nanhu Ram, Shri.
12. Dalbir Singh Gohar, Shri	38. Narinjan Dass Dhiman, Shri.
13. Darbara Singh, Sardar	39. Partap Singh, Bakshi, Shri.
14. Daulat Ram, Shri	40. Partap Singh Kairon, Sardar.
15. Daulat Ram Sharma, Shri.	41. Prabodh Chandra, Shri.
16. D. D. Puri, Shri.	42. Raghuvir Singh, Rai.
17. Devi Lal, Shri.	43. Rajinder Singh Giani, Sardar.
18. Dev Raj Anand, Shri.	44. Rala Ram, Shri.
19. Dharam Vir Vasisht, Shri.	45. Ram Kishan, Shri.
20. Gajraj Singh, Rao.	46. Ram Sarup, Shri.
21. Gurbachan Singh Attwal, Sardar	47. Ranjit Singh, Capt.
22. Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, Sardar.	48. Rizaq Ram, Shri.
23. Gurbanta Singh, Master.	49. Sadhu Ram, Shri.
24. Gurdial Singh Dhillon, Sardar.	50. Sher Singh, Shri.
25. Harbhajan Singh, Principal.	51. Sita Devi, Shrimati.
26. Hari Ram, Shri.	52. Som Datt, Shri.
	53. Sunder Singh, Shri.
	54. Teg Ram, Shri.
	55. Uttam Singh, Sardar.
	56. Waryam Singh, Sardar (Amritsar).

NOES

Name	Name
1. Achhar Singh, Chhina, Sardar.	10. Iqbal Singh Principal.
2. Ajmer Singh, Sardar.	11. Karnail Singh Sidhu, Sardar.
3. Bachan Singh, Sardar.	12. Maru Singh Malik, Chaudhri.
	13. Mukhtiar Singh, Sardar.
4. Bhag Singh, Sardar (Muktsar).	14. Naurang Singh, Sardar.
	15. Nidhan Singh, Sardar.
5. Bhag Singh, Sardar (Kot-Bhai).	16. Partap Singh, Master.
6. Chanan Singh, Sardar.	17. Ram Parkash, Shri.
7. Darshan Singh, Sardar.	18. Saroop Singh, Sardar.
8. Gopal Singh, Sardar.	19. Sri Chand, Shri.
9. Harkishan Singh, Surjit.	20. Wadhawa Ram, Shri.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Security of the State Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Security of the State Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Professor Sher Singh (Jhajjar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by the Chief Minister 'that the Bill be passed'. The foreign policy that our country has adopted after the achievement of freedom is that of non-involvement in international disputes and of bringing to bear an independent and unbiased outlook on them and if I may be permitted to add, of preaching this new cult to other nations of the world. Our sole object in adopting this cult is of course to create the right atmosphere for the establishment of world peace on a permanent basis. The other path is that of power blocs which we are scrupulously avoiding. To make this new policy a success and to follow the democratic way of life is the two-fold aim that we have kept before us

There is, however, no denying the fact that in some form or the other influences are at work in our country to make us give up this policy of non-alignment and toe the line of one power bloc or the other. There are quite a number of newspapers which are supporting one or the other bloc. I do not want to go into the question of how and why they do it, but this is certain that they are anxious to see our country tied to one bloc or the other and are making efforts with this end in view. These newspapers want to create such conditions as may compel us to abandon an independent foreign policy or conditions that may lead to our enslavement once again. In such an atmosphere, the need for enacting such a measure as this can hardly be over-emphasised.

Then, our Government has taken upon itself the task of making the Five-Year Plan a success. It is our policy that the work envisaged in this plan should be completed. The most important things to be done under this plan include building of big dams, making arrangements for the irrigation of land, production of electric power on a vast scale which may be used to run factories in the country and to promote industry, and thereby meeting the shortage of foodgrains in the country. Not only this ; it is our policy under the Five-Year Plan that the shortage in whatever things it exists in the country, should be removed as far as possible. I believe that we can maintain our self-respect only if our Five-Year Plan is made successful and our policies which we have adopted in this regard are successfully implemented. If we are not able to do like that, the power politics that is current today will land us in difficulties. If, therefore, anybody should like to create obstacles in the way of completion of the big tasks that we have to carry out under the Five-Year Plan, or some party or group or individual should like to damage our power-houses or should try to defeat the independent policy of the Government in connection with this Plan, we shall have the need of such a law to meet any of these eventualities so that the Government may be able to follow this policy with firmness and to complete the gigantic task undertaken by it. And, when there is such a gigantic task before us, to accomplish which we are spending lakhs of rupees with a view to eliminating unemployment completely from the the country, and if any person or party succeeds in defeating the Government in its purpose of the Five-Year Plan, by creating disorder, how can then the prestige of the country be raised ? It is, therefore, incumbment on us that we should bring forth such legislation which is conducive to the accomplishment of our task with firmness and certainty.

Then, it is said that we profess to do everything according to the principles of democracy but how is this Bill in conformity with those principles ? Under democracy, every organisation, nay, every individual, enjoys freedom of speech. If this is true, why are we imposing restrictions under this measure ? The reply to these questions is simple. I say that the presence of such a legislation especially in the transitional period is essential in the interest of democracy. Democracy cannot function so long as we do not create the necessary atmosphere conducive to its growth. If we do not impose any restriction on the mischievous man who wants to disturb the peace of the society, how can the poor man work in peace ? Recently when the elections were held, the poor people in the country were prevented from exercising their votes with freedom. The big people harassed them. Even now the poor are being suppressed. If we do not give protection to that poor man, the people who disturb the peace of the society will indulge in their nefarious activities with impunity and the poor people will not be able to exercise their right of vote in the manner in which they want to use it. If, therefore, we want democracy

[Professor Sher Singh]

to remain alive and flourish, then there is an absolute necessity of making such a law as this and it is with this purpose alone that we are passing this Bill. It is obvious that if some people may be thinking of destroying the society and may be indulging in dacoities by becoming absconders and thus may be thinking of weakening the administration, then the Government must have some powers in its armoury to fight out the subversive activities of such persons, otherwise the life of our countrymen, particularly that of the poor people cannot be a life of comfort, peace and security. If those who act against the interest of the public get complete freedom to do so, democracy cannot exist ; it will come to an end. As I have already said, it is necessary for the growth of democracy that an atmpsphere should be created which is congenial to it. The purpose of this Bill is two-fold, namely, promotion of democracy in our country and the removal of any difficulties in its way.

Besides this, I want to point out another thing. It is just and right that those who create disorder should be severely dealt with. But whenever there is a case of imposition of a collective fine or of declaring a whole village as a disturbed area, the Government should take care that the officers do not misuse this law, because very often it so happens that when miscreants in a village are not traced out, the police officers, instead of diligently making a search for the offender, get the whole village declared a disturbed area and thus get a collective fine imposed on the whole village. In this way, the poor and good people of the village are also punished along with the bad ones. They suffer more since the number of mischief-makers is usually very small, and the latter do not lose much by way of fines that they have to pay. However, if all the means of the police to trace out the offenders prove to be of no avail, and the good people have not the courage to disclose the names of the offenders, then in those circumstances a collective fine should be imposed. But the thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is that before deciding to impose a collective fine, the Government should strictly ask the police officers to use all the means at their command to trace out the offenders. After all, our C. I. D. is very powerful. It can find out who the offender is. If, however, the C.I.D. fails to locate the offender in spite of its efforts, then a collective fine may be imposed on the village. But I must say that the Government should also be strict with its officers so that they may try to find out the real offender quite diligently and thus save the innocent people from the imposition of the collective fines. It so often happens that when a collective fine is imposed, the mischief-makers themselves become the sympathisers and defenders of the people and antagonise them against the Government by accusing the latter of imposing an unreasonable fine on them. It is, therefore, necessary that the police should use all possible means to find out the people who disturb the peace.

With these words, I commend to the House that this Bill be passed (*Cheers*).

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, this is the last opportunity and I would, therefore, like to make an appeal in respect of this Bill to the hon. Chief Minister and to my hon. Friends sitting on the Government benches. Although the hon. Chief Minister, while discussing the Bill, has tried to point out that we are not well versed in law, yet we know those laws very well which are used against us. It is common knowledge that a person who has something to do with a certain law knows more about it than a lawyer even who appears before the court for the first time in that connection. In the same way, we have got special experience and solid knowedge about such laws which have been used against us during the period of

fifteen years of our political life. It is not a new thing for us. A tenant knows tenancy laws ; a labourer is acquainted with the labour laws and similarly we are thoroughly acquainted with the safety laws or such other laws under which civil rights are suppressed. Therefore, whatever we said or whatever amendments we moved, were on the basis of our solid experience and full knowledge of such laws. I think, no citizen of the Punjab can escape this law. It is so comprehensive that the Government has left out no law whose worst sections have not been incorporated in it. In my opinion, there cannot be a more ruthless weapon of repression than this law. In the presence of this law, no labourer can go on strike, nobody can organise a volunteer corps nor can any other body of this type be formed, Besides this, even the Press has been deprived of its freedom ; there is no freedom of movement etc. As I have already pointed out in details, this law cuts at the very root of civil liberties of the people.

Then, Sir, if we look at the history of other countries we find that such laws are passed only when law and order cannot be maintainted by any other means. But at the moment no emergency exists here. In case an emergency arises the Assembly can, of course, be asked to pass such a law. Recourse can be had even to Ordinances in case of great necessity. But at this time there is absolutely no necessity of any such thing. I find that no hon. Member of this House is convinced of the necessity of this law. I am in a position to feel the pulse of everybody in this House. Nobody is enthusiastic about it. In the case of other Bills the Congress members speak with great zeal and earnestness but so far as this Bill is concerned, barring one or two Members, nobody has shown any zeal in his speech. On the other hand, one of the hon. Members has severely criticised it. I feel that even the Congress Members don't see any necessity of this Bill. Not to talk of mending matters, it may worsen them.

Two arguments have been advanced in support of this Bill. One is that the Bill is calculated to meet any emergency that may arise in the future. But I ask, why can't such a Bill be passed or Ordinance promulgated if and when an emergency does actually arise ? What is the good of keeping the people always in fear ?

The second argument has something to do with a state of famine. I say, is there a citizen in this State who would not come forth to help the people during times of famine ? I can speak from my personal experience that at the time of famine people forget their differences and pool their resources to surmount the difficulty. Is there a citizen in this country who can see poor people starving before his very eyes ? There is no weight in this argument. I think that the Government should come forth with better and cogent arguments. But it appears that it hasn't any. I see that the Congress Members have absolutely no argument in support of this Bill. It has been said that we are opposing this Bill because we have a guilty conscience. I would go to the extent of saying that the Government is enacting this measure as it does not mean to play cricket. The Government wishes to crush the Opposition and it is because of this that this Bill has been brought forth. Otherwise, the existing circumstances do not warrant the passage of this Bill. Does not the Government already have numerous laws with the help of which the Opposition is being suppressed ? All sorts of things are being done and all sorts of allegations are brought forth, so much so that the communists are blamed for derailing the trains despite the fact that the Railway Minister of the Government of India has after due enquiry stated that frequent derailment of the

[Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit]
trains was due to the reason that the new engines were very heavy. The reason for the accidents is the use of heavy engines but the blame is being placed at the door of the Communists. The laws are being abused so much that a few persons including Sardar Gian Singh and Sardar Kishan Singh have been arrested and harassed a number of times. Warrants for arrest have been issued against Sardar Satwant Singh who is a member of the Provincial Communist Party and who had been released on parole He has been serving the public for one and a half years and was my election agent at Nakodar but has now been arrested. Mr. Speaker, what I wish to bring out is this that the people laugh at the manner in which the laws are already being used and how the cases that have once been withdrawn are revived. The hon. Members are not satisfied with the policy of the Government and that is why their speeches lack enthusiasm. On the one hand, Pandit Nehru declares that he would pursue a non-sectional policy but on the other hand the Congress Ministry of this State is working in a party spirit.Time and again, we are blamed for receiving money from Russia for the purposes of overthrowing this Government. But I ask, do not such allegations made by the Chief Minister against us estrange our relations with foreign countries ?

Chief Minister : I spoke of a party and not of a country.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit: But these things involve a foreign State with which we want to have good relations. I would like to tell the Chief Minister that we have as much love for our country as he has. And then who does not wish to have good relations with other countries? But I find nothing wrong in saying that Slocum is giving bad reports to the Indian engineers to show them inefficient or that we should have nothing to do with the Commonwealth or that we should have closer relationship with Russia and China. Mr. Speaker, we have condemned this Bill because we think that it robs the people of their liberty. We tried to improve it by suggesting amendments but the Government has not been good enough to accept any. According to the parliamentary practice useful amendments suggested by the Opposition are generally accepted by the Government and such an act does not show any weakness on the part of the latter. On the other hand it shows the generosity and sagacity of the Government. Anyhow, it is crystal clear that even the Congress Members do not feel enthusiastic about passing this Bill.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I submit that there is no immediate danger confronting our State and, hence there appears to be no need for passing a measure like this. If, however, the hon. Ministers have any such apprehensions they should let us know and we promise them our whole-hearted co-operation and help in establishing law and order in the State but if in spite of this they pass this measure it would be dubbed as a 'Black Act'. It would be a pity if the people, instead of extending their co-operation and uniting their efforts with those of the Government, fritter away their energies in meaningless criticisms. In such an event we will have to face serious consequences.

Sardar Ajmer Singh (Samrala) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, I consider that the present Bill which the Congress Government is going to enact would prove a slur on its fair name—if it has got any. It is no doubt a stigma on the fair principles adopted by it, namely, that during the Congress regime people would enjoy full freedom of speech and that no such restrictions would be imposed upon them as were imposed during the British regime. I think this law could be a standing disgrace to our Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress Party which claims to be the accredited representative of the people, after ruling over the State for a period of five years has now felt the necessity of passing such obnoxious measure for the stabilisation of its Government as were passed during the British regime and that too during the abnormal circumstances. But even then the people had raised their voice against the Rowlatt Act and what has surprised me most is that the very people who had agitated against that Act are themselves enacting a similar law.

Mr. Speaker, I want to submit that the Bill should not be given a wrong title ; its title should rather be "The Punjab Insecurity of the State Bill". If the Government does not want to let the people enjoy their fundamental rights allowed to them under the Constitution of the country, but, on the other hand, wants to muzzle them so that they may not raise their voice against the reprehensible and abominable acts of the Government of the day, people would be obliged to adopt other underhand means to overthrow the Government. What I want to impress upon them is that public must appreciate good principles and if their Government is run on good ideologies they must not fear at all. As a matter of fact, they want to strangle them by passing this retrograde measure and turn the State into a graveyard. I may tell them bluntly that we would oppose such measures tooth and nail. Besides, in no democratic country of the world can people be kept under lock and key. My hon. Friends should realise that, through this Bill, they are, in reality, not providing for special measures to prevent activities prejudicial to the security of the State or the maintenance of public order. They are, rather, trying to stabilize their own position. In this connection, I would assure the Government that whenever any need arises, my party would be the first to render all possible help for ensuring the security of the State and the maintenance of public order. We people cannot indulge in anti-State activities and, therefore, no danger can be apprehended by the State from our existence. However, we may adopt any measures which may prove harmful for the existence of the Government of the day. At the present time there are only three political parties in the State, *viz.* the Congress Party, the Akali Party and the Communist Party. The ideology of the Communist Party differs from those of the other two. But it is wrong to use coercive measures against a party which differs from the Government party in its ideology.

Mr. Speaker, in reality it is a political Bill which has been drafted on political grounds or otherwise who does not know that no such emergency exists in the Punjab State at present? Section 144 Criminal Procedure Code also covers the same restrictions. It is a very vital issue and I can confidently say that after the enactment of this Bill if the Congress Party contests any election anywhere in the State it will have to lick the dust as has already happened in the case of the Nakodar bye-election. In order to remove their misunderstanding I may make it clear that by bringing forward this Bill, they have earned a bad certificate, a certificate that they do not possess the necessary qualities or capabilities of governing the State. By doing so they have failed to convince the masses of their selfless service and, as such, have proved themselves unworthy of the chairs they are occupying. Under the circumstances, I would suggest that the Government should not always make use of the powers conferred upon it by this Act. It may be considered as a dead letter and if need be recourse may be had to Section 144 Criminal Procedure Code instead. However, in case of emergency this Act may be brought in use and we would also give our full co-operation. Still I feel that their intentions are not good.

[Sardar Ajmer Singh]

Sir, it has been alleged that the Government always rightly uses the powers granted to it by this House. In this connection, I have to submit that at one place in the State one particular party was given permission to hold a religious function but afterwards its permission was cancelled and the same permission was given to another party. The Deputy Commissioner issued the permit to the other party and informed the former that their meeting could not be held. Thus the lecturers and speakers who had come to address that meeting were put to unnecessary trouble and botheration. These, Sir, are their District Magistrates and this is how they use their discretion and adopt unfair means.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, all the various arguments advanced in the course of this debate have been properly answered. Now we have very little time at our disposal and, therefore, I shall take up some of the salient points from the speeches that have been made. First of all, I should like to congratulate Professor Sher Singh who has put forward his point of view in a very commendable way. He has drawn particular attention to collective fines and suggested that there should be some safeguards in the matter of the imposition of these fines. I appreciate this suggestion. Sir, as a matter of fact, I am strongly against imposing such fines and inflicting punitive police on the people because such measures contain a suggestion of abnormal conditions in the State and we want that perfectly normal conditions should prevail in our State at all times. That is exactly the reason why this Government has issued instructions to the effect that a thorough examination of the situation should precede the imposition of such fines in order to be quite sure that the state of affairs actually justifies this action. I wish to point out to the House that the principle underlying the collective fines and punitive police fixes collective responsibility. We are always anxious to avoid such measures. Not only that. I have already issued instructions that wherever these taxes may have been imposed the officers concerned should examine the case thoroughly in order to find out how many persons can be exempted from payment. By this we mean to assure the people that our local officers will be very careful in respect of such matters and we want them to be very careful. Let me assure the House that these provisions about the imposition of collective fines will not be administered in a casual manner and without careful consideration.

Shri Sri Chand : Is the Chief Minister prepared to give the same assurance in respect of the present Act ?

Chief Minister : I am grateful to the hon. Chaudhri Sahib for this suggestion. I wish to assure the House that we sincerely wish that we may not be compelled to resort to any stringent law especially to the provisions of any law like the present Act. Now my hon. Friend Sardar Harkishan Singh has said that such laws are required only in times of emergency, for instance when the country is engaged in some war. But Mr. Speaker, today we are living in a state of cold warfare. After all, what is war? War means collection and piling up of physical forces and then directing them to a particular function. Sir, we have such violent forces with violent methods working in a particular direction and for a particular purpose. These are not Government forces. They belong to some other people. It is these forces that have necessitated the legislation of this measure. Mr. Speaker, certain people do not realise that in this age they do not require sword or bullet for bringing about a change of Government. People can change their Government without resorting

to violence. My hon. Friends collect small children and ask them to shout some slogans. Thus the thing is started with raw children. I may point out, Sir, that a great change has come in the methods of warfare in recent years. There are two methods of warfare now-a-days. One of them is the method of discussion or negotiation and the other is the method of force. In other words there is the rule of law and the rule of force. We, Sir, are for the rule of law.

Then, Sir, my learned Friend, Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit has observed that, of course, they are not conversant with law, but it is the wearer who knows where the shoe pinches. It is perfectly true. But, Sir, since you are yourself a medical expert, you may be aware that many a time it so happens that on account of his frequent visits to the doctors, the patient himself acquires some sort of proficiency in medicine. Similar is the case with laws. The enactment of various legislative measures is watched very carefully by the people. But, as a matter of fact, a class amongst them has got a tendency of always viewing them from quite a different angle. They would generally think in terms of how to defy these laws to achieve their object. I, however, think that the Bill contains no such provision as may be considered very objectionable. After all, what for are the Governments constituted? They are there mainly to nip evils and disruptive forces as are bound to prove prejudicial to the security of the State in the bud.

Then, my lawyer Friend over there has asked the Government to explain the causes which warranted the enactment of this law. He further observed that there would have been every justification for it if abnormal conditions had prevailed in the country. To use his argument, may I enquire what was the necessity of enacting the Indian Penal Code ? In other words, what was need to enact laws for providing safeguards against thefts, robberies and murders ? According to him adequate measures could be adopted at the time of the occurrence of thefts, murders and dacoities. But in actual practice, Sir, this must not be. In the absence of a proper law, the thieves and dacoits would have let loose forces of mischief to achieve their object. But, Sir, today is the age of Science. If not impossible, it is a bit difficult to forecast the future. But in the light of the fast changing situations, it can be easily estimated what particular turn these situations are likely to take in the near future. For instance, let us take the case of wheat situation in our State. For sometime past, we have been noticing a remarkable improvement in the food position of our State. Besides, the Government of Delhi State has also expressed their unwillingness to lift wheat stocks from Punjab this year owing partly to their having sufficient reserves and partly to the availability of foodgrains at comparatively cheaper rates from Pepsu. Taking all these facts into account, therefore, it can be inferred that there is no likelihood of the wheat prices recording a rise in the Punjab. But they may come down later on. What I mean to say is that it is possible to foresee the future to a considerable extent through the present. In fact, a wide-awake administrator is he who always keeps pace with the time. Therefore, the apprehension that the Bill has been introduced with a view to preventing the people from exploiting the American experts is a very cheap argument regarding which, I think, it is better to keep silent.

Then, Sir, objection has been raised even to the continuance of India in the British Commonwealth. In reply to this, I would simply observe that the world would not make any progress if the conception of Commonwealth

[Chief Minister]
were to be the same as has been propounded by these hon. Members. The crying need of the hour is to let the world march ahead. So far as the foreign policy of India is concerned, there will hardly be any citizen of our country who does not know that India has an independent foreign policy. India is not under foreign control in any sphere. No foreign power can dictate terms to her or formulate her policies. India takes her decisions on all matters free from any foreign coercion. She reviews all the external matters purely on their merit. What else can go to substantiate India's neutrality in foreign affairs than the fact that the countries which previously did not pay any heed to her advice, have now been obliged to accept her advice and act upon its advice? (*Cheers*). I rather wish the Commonwealth to expand to such an extent that the ideologies of India may be respected in every nook and corner of the globe and that she may exercise her influence on all the countries in the world. But, Sir, some countries have not come nearer to her because their programmes and policies differ from hers. In the circumstances, Sir, with your permission I would like these hon. Members to leave this topic alone. It will continue like this. But one thing is certain that it will not bring healthy consequences, if they continue to mislead the people.

Besides, Sir, an hon. Friend sitting opposite has said that it would have been better had this Bill been given the title of "The Punjab Insecurity of the State Bill". I would like to tell him that this title could also serve the purpose. It would not have made even the least difference had this Bill been entitled as suggested by him. In that case too, the purport would remain unchanged. I am reminded of another matter which he has referred to. He urged us to undertake such works which were calculated to benefit the masses. Sir, I remember having remarked yesterday that a man has one or another of the folloiwing tendencies *i. e., rajogun* (रजोगुण ਰਜੋਗੁਨ) *satogun* (सतोगुण ਸਤੋਗੁਨ), *tamogun* (तमोगुण ਤਮੋਗੁਨ) etc. There are certain persons who are incorrigible. In order to make them tread on the right path, it is essential that some firm steps should be taken.

My hon. Friends have cited a number of examples and urged upon the Government the necessity to do substantial things. Let me make it clear that we are not here to oblige anybody in particular by undertaking beneficial works. It is rather the imperative duty of every Government to undertake and execute useful schemes. After all, this is an age of democracy. Who would vote for the Government if it did not keep in view the wider interest of the masses ? Did not Gandhiji undertake the programmes of public welfare ? But still the stone-hearted people did not spare that sage and shot him to death. Therefore, I take this opportunity to tell them that it is of paramount importance to make adequate arrangements for putting a check on those people who have the tendency to use violence in place of non-violence to achieve their end.

I am, however, grateful to my hon. Friend Sardar Ajmer Singh who has held out an assurance that his party will offer its unstinted support and co-operation to the Government at any critical hour of national emergency. To him, I have simply to say that all actions are based on certain fundamentals. If they are really of this view, then it is necessary that in order to give this idea a practical shape they should revitalise their party and thus help the Government to establish law and order in the State. Yesterday, I held out an assurance to them and I repeat it today that the Government is prepared to fully co-operate with them and redress their grievances. If they earnestly feel that they have got certain grievances, except those of a political nature,

there is no reason why those should not be redressed amicably. This State belongs to all, irrespective of any caste or creed. Everyone has the same right over the Government as the hon. Members sitting on this side of the House. Everyone is free to demand justice, everyone can have the protection of laws but let first those methods be done away with first which are a bone of contention between them and us. Sir, excuse me if I reproduced on the floor of the House the various statements made by their high-ranking leaders. Is it justified or does it become them to say that more the disorderly conditions in the State, the better it will be in the interest of the Sikh Community ? You may yourself judge, Sir, whether it is a thing from which they are likely to derive any benefit. Now, we are placed in a very uncertain position. It is also a problem confronting us whether to take notice of their utterances which they make in the press and on the platform or to acknowledge their whole-hearted offer of co-operation. Anyhow we shall deal with them on that front, and take the offer made by the hon. Member on the floor of the House with due regard.

In the end, before I resume my seat, let me assure you, Sir, that prior to the enforcement of the provisions embodied in this Bill, the Government will seriously apply its mind. It is only after taking stock of the entire situation that the final decision will be arrived at and the Act if need be, enforced. Therefore, the apprehensions which appear to have been expressed only for the sake of propaganda, are totally ill-founded and cannot carry any weight.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjeet (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, since we do not wish ourselves to be a party to the enactment of this Bill, we place this statement before you and walk-out of the Chamber.

(*The Opposition then staged a walk-out after Sardar Nidhan Singh had handed over the statement to Mr. Speaker*).

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Security of the State Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. *on Tuesday, the* 14*th April,* 1953.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

14th April 1953.

VOL. I—No. 24

OFFICIAL REPORT



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Wednesday, 15th *April*, 1953.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 18th March, 1953.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p. m., of the clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

LEVY OF PUNITIVE TAX IN ROHTAK DISTRICT

***1409. Shri Sri Chand** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) (i) the total amount of punitive tax levied on the inhabitants of Rohtak District during the years from 1950 to 1952 ;

(ii) the names of the villages in the said district which have been declared to be disturbed areas under the Police Act ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Punitive Tax in the Rohtak District is to be realised from the Jats alone and from no other community ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that in Village Pahrawar, Police Station Rohtak Sadar, there is only one Jat family and the total amount of Punitive Tax amounting to about Rs 8,000 levied on that village shall be borne by the head of that family ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) (i) Rs. 2,84,965-4-0,

(ii) A list of such villages is attached herewith.

(b) it is not a fact that all the punitive police tax in the Rohtak District is to be realized from the Jats alone. This tax on account of Additional Police post located in 62 villages in this district for the period from 16th September, 1952 to 15th March, 1953 only, will, however, be realized from this community alone. The reason for this is that this post has been located for the aforesaid period on account of the disturbed conditions of these villages and the conduct of the Jats alone.

(c) it is a fact that in village Pehrawar, there is one Jat family and the rest are Brahmins. A sum of Rs. 992 levied on account of punitive police tax for the period from 16th September, 1951 to 15th September, 1952 will be borne by all the inhabitants of this village and a sum of Rs. 268 (not Rs 8,000) for the period from 16th September, 1952 to 15th March, 1953 by the Jats alone. The reason for realising this tax for the latter period from the Jats alone has already been given in reply to part (b) of the question.

[Chief Minister]

Names of the villages declared disturbed under the Police Act as required in (a) (ii) above

1. Mandothi.
2. Jakhoda.
3. Kesar.
4. Dhanana.
5. Mundlana.
6. Kalana.
7. Jawana.
8. Barana.
9. Dhorana.
10. Khanpur Kalan
11. Inayat.
12. Gamri.
13. Kasandi.
14. Kasanada.
15. Assaudha.
16. Ladraon.
17. Kharkhoda.
18. Rohna.
19. Sunari Kalan.
20. Dhamar.
21. Bahu Akbar Pur.
22. Tatoli.
23. Jindrain.
24. Karontha.
25. Khadwali.
26. Makrauli Khurd.
27. Sanghi.
28. Pehrawar.
29. Jassia.
30. Kaloi.
31. Dobh.
32. Chamarian.
33. Makrauli Kalan.
34. Bohar.
35. Bhalout.
36. Baliana.
37. Keharawar.
38. Dataur.
39. Kahnaur.
40. Kalanga.
41. Sudana.
42. Lakhan Majra.
43. Nadana.
44. Kharak Jatan.
45. Farmana.
46. Gehrawar.
47. Nandal.
48. Balmaba.
49. Garauthi.
50. Chiri.
51. Indargarh.
52. Jasrana.
53. Jauali
54. Katwal.
55. Ahmedpur.
56. Barrota.
57. Bhainswal Kalan.
58. Bidhal.
59. Kheri Dhamkan.
60. Garhwal.
61. Bali Brahminan.
62. Gilaur Kalan.
63. Chhachhrana.
64. Ahulana.
65. Chhappra.
66. Thaska.

67. Baroda.
68. Jagsi.
69. Rukhi.
70. Gangana.
71. Kanwli.
72. Kami.
73. Bohla.
74. Nana Titarpur.
75. Pollad.
76. Pinana.
77. Jharoti.
78. Jharot.
79. Bhatgaon.
80. Guna.

TOUR BY MINISTERS

*1410. **Shri Sri Chand** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) the number of days on which each of the Ministers was on tour during the period of interval of the present Session of the Assembly i.e., from 28th October, 1952 to 19th November, 1952 ;

(ii) the distance in miles travelled by each Minister during the period mentioned in part (a) (i) above ;

(iii) the cost of petrol and other expenses of the car of each Minister during the above-mentioned period ;

(iv) the Travelling Allowance drawn by each Minister ;

(v) the Travelling Allowance drawn by the staff accompanying each of the Ministers ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : A statement embodying the requisite information is given below—

Minister	Number of days on which each Minister was on tour during the period 28.10.52 to 19.11.52.	Distance in miles travelled by each Minister	Cost of petrol etc. of the car allotted to eah Minister	Amount of T. A. drawn by each Minister	Amount of T.A. drawn by the staff accompanying the Minister
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
		Miles	Rs A. P.	Rs A. P.	Rs A. P.
Chief Minister	9 days	802	301 3 3	135 0 0	196 11 0
Development Minister	19 „	2,694	516 15 3	225 0 0	588 8 0
Irrigation and Power Minister	8 „	910	368 13 0	120 0 0	363 12 0
Local Government Minister	15 „	1,723	571 1 6	225 0 0	380 4 0
Education Minister	12 „	1,487	352 9 0	180 0 0	326 9 0
Labour Minister ..	8 „	2,669	393 12 3	120 0 0	565 14 0
Public Works Minister	16 „	1,530	439 13 3	225 0 0	595 14 0
Finance Minister	7 „	785	131 6 6	112 8 0	158 12 0
	Total ..	12,600	3,075 10 0	1,342 8 0	3,176 4 0

OFFICE HOURS IN SIMLA

*1438. **Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the working hours of all Punjab Government offices stationed at Simla have been reduced from 15th November, 1952 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the reduction mentioned in part (a) above has not been applied to the Punjab Government Press Industrial Employees ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) yes, but up to the 15th March 1953 ;

(b) Yes. The reason is that the Punjab Government Press is a registered factory governed by the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948. The working hours of its employees are governed by section 54 of that Act read with section 51. These employees are also entitled to overtime benefits under the Factories Act.

ARREST OF SHRI D. D. SINGH

*1448. **Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that Shri D D. Singh, General Secretary, Nangal-Bhakra Mazdoor Union was arrested on the 18th November, 1952, by the Hoshiarpur Police.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Yes, he was arrested on 9th November 1952, in case F. I. R. No. 99, dated 15th August, 1952, under section 379 I.P.C., P. S. Anandpur Sahib and was discharged on 28th November, 1952. This case was registered in connection with the theft of a cycle of one Lachman Singh, Tailor, Nangal Township. Later, on information received there was reasonable suspicion that Shri D. D. Singh was or had been in possession of the stolen cycle. This led to his arrest.

REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS OF CRIMINAL TRIBES AS BAD CHARACTERS IN THE STATE

*1464. **Shri Rala Ram** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state —

(a) the total number of members of the erstwhile criminal tribes who have been registered as confirmed bad characters since the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act in the State together with the reasons therefor;

(b) whether any complaints of highhandedness and arbitrary registration of bad characters have been received by the Government ; if so, their number together with the action, if any, taken by the Government thereon ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) About 50. They came within the purview of section 2(3) of the Habitual Offenders Act, 1952.

(b) Yes only one. Even that on careful inquiry was found to be baseless.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS IN THE STATE

*1465. **Shri Rala Ram** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of reformatory schools in the State at present for (i) Juvenile offenders and (ii) the children of erstwhile criminal tribes ;

(b) whether there exists any expert and specialist Inspectorial Staff for these schools ;

(c) whether Government watches the careers of those who are discharged from such schools ; if so, with what results ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:

(a) (i) One.

(ii) None.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. In the year 1950-51 the percentage of good conduct amongst those who were discharged was 90, which is very encouraging.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS RUN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE

*1487. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of public libraries and reading rooms in the State run by various departments of the Government together with the amount spent department-wise by the Government on them ;

(b) whether the Government has considered the feasibility by bringing the Libraries referred to in part (a) above under the unified control ; if so, with what results ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a)

Name of the office or Department	No. of public Libraries	No. of reading rooms	Amount spent Department-wise by the Government.
			Rs. A. P.
Director of Panchayats, Punjab ..	915	Nil	45,000 0 0
Director Public Relations, Punjab ..	Nil	145 (subsidised by the Government)	20,755 10 0
Commissioner, Ambala Division ..	Nil	Nil	..
Commisioner, Jullundur Division ..	Nil	Nil	..

[Chief Minister]

(b) The Punjab Government have set up the Central Library Committee and the District Library Committees in each district of the State to bring the libraries under one unified control.

The Central Library Committee carefully considered the question of co-ordination and consolidation of rural and urban libraries in the State. It was decided that the libraries should essentially be a Panchayats institution in these areas and in some of villages where the libraries had been started by the District Boards, the responsibility for running the libraries would be that of the District Boards and the Panchayat should not open new libraries in those villages. If possible, they should contribute something to the maintenance of the District Board Libraries. In villages in which there are no Panchayats, the Young Farmer Clubs have been permitted to run their libraries while in other villages in which the Panchayats and Young Farmer's Clubs were functioning side by side, the Panchayats should take over the libraries of the Young Farmer's Club.

POLICE OFFICIALS IN THE STATE

***1490. Shri Teg Ram** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the total number of Constables, Head Constables, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police at present in the State together with their monthly emoluments and grade of Pay ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : A statement is given below—

	Permanent	Temporary	Total
Sub-Inspectors ..	683	57	740
Assistant Sub-Inspectors ..	700	212	912
Head Constables ..	2,191	290	2,481
Foot Constables ..	15,661	1,168	16,829

GRADES OF PAY

Sub-Inspector (Selection Grade)	1st Selection Grade ..	Rs 210 per mensem
	2nd Selection Grade	Rs 200 per mensem
	3rd Selection Grade ..	Rs 190 per mensem
	4th Selection Grade ..	Rs 180 per mensem
(Time-scale)	..	Rs 120—5—150/5—180
Assistant Sub-Inspector	..	Rs 80—2—90/2—100
Head Constable	..	Rs 55—3—85
Foot Constable (S. G.)	..	Rs 40—1—50
Foot Constable (T.S.)	..	Rs 33—1—36 $\frac{4}{7}$—40 $\frac{5}{7}$—45

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

Pay up to Rs 50 per mensem ..	Rs 30 per mensem

Pay exceeding	Rs 50 but not exceeding Rs 150 per mensem	..	Rs 40 per mensem
„ „	Rs 150 „ „ Rs 200	„	Rs 45 „ „
„ „	Rs 200 „ „ Rs 250	„	Rs 50 „ „
„ „	Rs 250 „ „ Rs 300	„	Rs 60 „ „

TEMPORARY ALLOWANCE

Sub-Inspector .. Rs 10 per mensem

COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE

	S.-I.	A.S.-I.	H.C.	F.C.	
Simla ..	1	28	14	11	Per mensem
Dharamsala ..	15	8	7	3	„
Dalhousie (Gurdaspur) ..	25	12	8	5	„
Amritsar (Headquarters) ..	..	..	5	5	„

The Police staff posted in Kulu Sub-Division is also entitled to compensatory allowance at 20 per cent of the pay, subject to a maximum of Rs 50 per mensem and a minimum of Rs 10 per mensem.

LEVY OF PUNITIVE TAX IN ROHTAK DISTRICT

***1520. Shri Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state —

(a) the number of villages in Rohtak District where punitive tax has been levied together with the total amount levied and realised respectively during the year 1952 ;

(b) the steps taken or intended to be taken by the Government to realise the arrears ;

(c) whether any representations have been received by the Government for the withdrawal of the said punitive police posts ; if so, the action taken thereon ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) (i) No. of villages in Rohtak District where punitive police tax has been levied during 1952 .. 71

		Rs	A.	P.
(ii) Total amount levied	..	97,730	0	0
(iii) Total amount realized	..	44,865	5	6

[Chief Minister]

(b) The question of exemption of certain persons from the payment of punitive police tax is under examination and as soon as this has been done, the arrears will be realized in the oridinary course of recovery procedings admissible under the rules.

(c) Yes; the representations were considered, but there being no justifiable grounds for the withdrawal of the posts before the expiry of their terms, no action was taken thereon.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: In part 'B' of the answers, the Chief Minister has stated that the question of exemption of certain persons from the payment of the Punitive Police Tax is under examination. May I know the categories of persons who will be exempted from the payment of this tax.

Chief Minister : The cases of the persons who are not in a position to pay the Tax, are under examination.

TAKING OF BEGAR BY THE OFFICERS OF BORDER CHOWKIES

***1528. Shri Wadhawa Ram** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Police Officers at the Border Chowkies take begar from the inhabitants of the border areas in the shape of fuel, rations, digging of pits etc., if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop this practice ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : No 'Begar' is taken by the Punjab Armed Police personnel posted to the Border pickets. The personnel get free cooked meals. The commodities of their rations and the fuel wood etc., are supplied by contractors approved by the Stores Purchase Officer, Punjab, and the deliveries are made at the pickets concerned.

GRANT OF COMPENSATION DUE TO BORDER INCIDENTS

***1527. Shri Wadhawa Ram** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state —

(a) whether any compensation is allowed to the relatives of those people who are killed at the border raids ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether any allowance is granted by the Government to those people at the border who are provided with rifles ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) No. However, provision exists for the grant of rewards or compensation to those who help the administration or expose themselves to danger in doing so. If any one receives an injury or is killed while assisting the administration, the reward or compensation is suitably higher.

(b) No. Rifles and ammunition are provided free of cost to them on a voluntary basis for their own security and that of their fellow villagers.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Does it not form the responsibility of the Government to compensate the dependants of those who are killed on the border ?

Chief Minister : How are they killed ?

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Because they live at the borders.

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITTEES

***1549. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state —

(a) the personnel of the State Anti-Corruption Committee, if any, and the number of cases so far dealt with by it together with its findings or recommendations therein ;

(b) the personnel of the District Anti-Corruption Committees, district-wise, in the State and the number of cases of corruption dealt with by each one of them together with their findings or recommendations in each case ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: (a) The personnel of the State Anti-Corruption Committee is as follows: —

Chief Minister ..	Chairman
Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab ..	Member
Inspector-General of Police ..	Member

As regards the other information the time and labour involved in its collection will be incommensurate with the benefit likely to accrue.

(b) The personnel of the District Anti-Corruption Committees is given in the statement below :—

District	*Personnel*
1. Gurdaspur ..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
2. Ambala ..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P. (3) Government Pleader (4) Civil Surgeon (5) Executive Engineer, P. W. D. Ambala Provincial Division (6) A. I. G., Government Railway Police

[Chief Minister]

District—continued		*Personnel*
3. Amritsar	..	(1) D. C. (2) Senior Superintendent of Police (3) P. A. to the Deputy Commissioner.
4. Kangra	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P. (3) Shri Hem Raj, M. P. (4) Shri Kishen Chand Puri, M. L. C. (5) Shri Hari Ram (6) District Public Relations Officer.
5. Ferozepore	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. S. P.
6. Karnal	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
7. Jullundur	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
8. Rohtak	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
9. Hissar	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
10. Ludhiana	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
11. Gurgaon	..	(1) D. C. (2) S. P.
12. Hoshiarpur	..	(1) D. C. (2) District and Sessions Judge. (3) S. P.

In addition to the personnel mentioned above, Government have formed a panel of names for the various districts and the Deputy Commissioner of a district has been authorised to associate two non-officials with the District Anti-Corruption Committees from among the panel of names formed for the district. As regards the other information required, the time and labour involved in its collection will be incommensurate with the benefit likely to accrue.

Shri Babu Dayal : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of cases in which the Anti-Corruption Committee found.......

Mr. Speaker : Not allowed.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police usually act as members of the District Anti-Corruption Committees. What useful purpose does the panel of non-official members attached to these committees serve?

Chief Minister : It is the duty of these officers to investigate the complaints received by them. The association of non-official element with these committees enables them to do the work in a more effective manner. Moreover, it gives a popular colouring to the whole work. Non-official element is associated with these committees in order to enable them to see how the work is done. If any fact comes to their notice they can suggest the manner in which enquiry into a particular case should be conducted.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : What is the use of associating M. L. A.s. with these committees if they have no power except to make complaints to the Deputy Commissioners or the Superintendents of Police ?

Chief Minister : They are associated with these committees so that any particular steps suggested by them may be taken. For example, if they are of the opinion that in a particular case certain evidence should be recorded or enquiry conducted in a particular manner, the Committee can act according to their instructions.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht : Out of the twelve districts in the State the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police are members of such Committees in eight districts but in Ambala, Amritsar and Kangra some publicmen and the Civil Surgeons have also been associated with these. What is the reason for this distinction ?

Chief Minister : I shall have to find out the reason for this. In my opinion this was done before I became the Chief Minister.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that these Committees consisting mostly of the Deputy Commissioners and S. Ps. have been constituted in all the districts. At some places non-official element is also said to have been associated with these. Are these committees merely advisory in capacity or have they some powers too ?

Chief Minister: As a matter of fact if a person commits an offence, there is no need for that case being investigated by an Anti-Corruption Committee. Anybody can go and lodge a complaint and the official machinery will be set in motion. Ordinarily, the work can be done in this manner but these committees have been constituted so that it may be done more thoroughly and after going through the case the members of the committee may be in a position to advise how it should be done. For instance, if a complaint is received against an official of the Civil Supplies Department, that department can itself take necessary action but when that case is placed before the Committee it will be able to advise the department how to act and how not to act.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Chief Minister does not appear to have followed my question clearly . If in a particular case the Committee comes to the conclusion that a person is guilty, has it the power to take action against him or it can only make a recommendation to the Government?

Chief Minister : They have the power to move the proper official machinery. They take the steps which they are empowered to take but for any other action they have to seek permission from the Government.

FIRING BY JAIL AUTHORITIES OF CENTRAL JAIL, AMBALA

*1568. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the circumstances under which firing was resorted to by the Jail authorities of Central Jail, Ambala in the first week of February, 1953 ;

(b) the number of rounds fired, list of casualties, including dead and injured ;

(c) whether any jail officials were wounded in their attempt to enter barracks for stopping the fighting ; if so, their list ;

(d) whether any enquiry was ordered into the incidents referred to above ; if so, the findings thereof ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) No firing was resorted to in the Central Jail, Ambala in the first week of February 1953.

(b), (c) and (d) Question does not arise.

PUNITIVE POLICE POST AT VILLAGE KILLI GUDDA, DISTRICT FEROZEPORE

*1621. **Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is intending to impose a punitive police post at Village Killi Gudda, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepore; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether he has received any representation from the residents of the village mentioned in part (a) above ; if so, the action, if any, Government proposes to take thereon ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: (a) A proposal for the location of a punitive police post at the cost of the inhabitants of Villages Killi Gudda, Fatehgarh Sabraon and Gatte Bad Shah, District Ferozepore, is under the considera-tion of the district officers, but it has not yet reached Government. The reason for this proposal is the disturbed condition of the villages and the conduct of their inhabitants.

(b) Yes ; this representation is also under consideration.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state as to what were the distrurbances which necessitated that action ?

Chief Minister : The district authorities have to deal with these things and the Government has not yet received full report about the whole matter.

FLOODS IN JUMNA RIVER IN AMBALA DISTRICT

*1338. **Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut** : Will the Minister for Develop-ment be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of villages affected by the recent floods in Jumna River in the Ambala District ;

(b) the relief, if any, given by the Government to the people of the above villages in the shape of taccavi and remission in land revenue ; if not, the reason therefor ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) *Nil.*

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Has the land of some villages gone to the other side of the border on account of the rivers having changed their courses towards this side ?

(No reply).

CASES OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS IN THE STATE

***1466. Shri Rala Ram** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of cases of cruelty to animals registered and challaned during the period from July, 1952 to December, 1952 in the State together with the number of those convicted therein ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : 464 and 404, respectively.

PAYMENT OF PENALTY FOR TRESPASSING OF STRAY CATTLE INTO GOVERNMENTAL FORESTS

***1468. Shri Rala Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the owners of cattle trespassing into Governmental Forests are required to pay a penalty double of what it was in the year 1943-44 ; if so, the reasons therefor ; together with the amounts of penalty so levied in respect of buffaloes, cows, camels and goats, respectively ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : No penalty but compensation is realizable from offenders under section 68 of the Indian Forest Act. The rates of compensation have been increased as compared with the rates current in the year 1943-44. The increase was necessitated because the previous rates were low and did not prove effective. The following table gives the rates of compensation current in the year 1943-44 and those current now :—

Division	*Rates in* 1943-44									*Rates in force now.*							
	Buffaloes	Cows			Camels	Goats			Buffaloes	Cows			Camels	Goats		
	Rs.	Rs	A.	P.	Rs	Rs	A.	P.	Rs	Rs	A.	P.	Rs	Rs	A.	P.
Hoshiarpur ..	2	0	8	0	2	0	8	0	4	1	0	0	4	1	0	0
Ambala ..	2	0	8	0	2	0	12	0	4	1	0	0	4	1	8	0
Kangra ..	2	0	8	0	..	0	4	0	3	1	0	0	..	0	8	0
Karnal/Hissar ..	2	1	0	0	4	0	8	0	4	1	0	0	4	1	0	0
Gurgaon/Rohtak ..	This Divison was created in 1948								4	1	0	0	4	1	8	0
Kulu ..	8	0	6	0	..	0	6	0	8	0	10	0	8	0	12	0
Seraj ..	2	0	6	0	..	0	4	0	4	0	8	0	..	0	8	0
Amritsar ..	This Division did not exist in 1943-44								3	1	8	0	4	0	12	0
Beas ..	2	0	8	0	..	..			4	1	0	0	..	..		
Ludhiana ..	2	1	0	0	4	0	4	0	2	1	0	0	4	0	4	0

EJECTMENT OF TENANTS IN THE STATE

*1493. **Shri Teg Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the total number of tenants, district-wise, in the State who have been served with notices of ejectments up to November, 1952, together with the number of those who have filed objections against such notices up to 15th January, 1953 ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : A statement is given below :—

Name of District		Number of tenants who have been served with notices of ejectment up to 15th November 1952.	Number of tenants who have filed objections against such notices up to 15th January 1953.
1. Hissar	..	1,980	507
2. Rohtak	..	1,679	302
3. Gurgaon	..	927	81
4. Karnal	..	1,430	224
5. Ambala	..	1,424	253
6. Simla	..	1	1
7. Kangra	..	460	293
8. Hoshiarpur	..	633	171
9. Jullundur	..	698	38
10. Ludhiana	..	467	56
11. Amritsar	..	1,656	115
12. Ferozepore	..	5,760	522
13. Gurdaspur	..	388	35
Total	..	17,503	2,598

COMPLETION OF TUBE-WELLS IN JAGADHRI AREA

*1516. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Tube-wells completed in the Jagadhari area by the Associated Tube-wells Co. till 31st January 1953 ;

(b) the total number of Tube-wells which the said company had to complete by the said date under the terms of the contract ;

(c) the penalty, if any, imposed upon the company for committing a default in the performance of its contract ;

(d) the date on which the Tube-wells which have been completed were handed over to the Government ;

(e) the number of tube-wells in working order and the number of days for which each of them was worked ;

(f) the number of tube-wells which are out of order and the reasons for the same together with the steps taken by the Government to repair them ;

(g) the number of tube-wells which have so far not started functioning owing to transmission lines not having been installed, or the non-supply of electric energy for which the Electricity Department was responsible ;

(h) the capacity of each tube-well for pumping water together with the average number of working hours in the case of each per day ;

(i) the total quantity of water pumped out per day ;

(j) the total number of tube-wells out of order due to silting;

(k) the steps taken or intended to be taken by the Government to see that the said company completes its quota of tube-wells by 31st March, 1953 under the terms of its agreement ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) 120.

(b) 160.

(c) The question of levying penalty is under consideration.

(d) A statement showing the requisite information is given below.

(e) Three tube-wells are doing irrigation since 12th November 1952.

(f) None.

(g) (i) Number of tube-wells which have not yet started functioning—117
(ii) Number of tube-wells in respect of which test reports have been submitted to the Electricity Branch and have yet to be energised—10.

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(iii) No. of tube-wells for which transmission lines have not yet been installed or in respect of which such installation is in hand—107.

(h) (i) Two cusecs.

(ii) 22 hours per day per tube-well.

(i) About 32 cusecs.

(j) Nil.

(k) The question of the operation of the Penalty clause on the shortfall in the monthly programme of construction of tube-wells according to the Supplemental Agreement with the Company, is under the consideration of the Government.

STATEMENT

Serial No.	Well No.	Group No.	Reach No.	Date of acceptance
1	7	III	II	27th June 1952
2	10	III	II	27th June 1952
3	7	II	II	13th June 1952
4	8	II	II	26th June 1952
5	9	II	II	26th June 1952
6	42	..	IV	23rd July 1952
7	43	..	IV	23rd July 1952
8	44	..	IV	23rd July 1952
9	46	..	IV	23rd July 1952
10	47	..	IV	23rd July 1952
11	50	..	IV	24th July 1952
12	51	..	IV	24th July 1952.
13	52	..	IV	24th July 1952
14	58	..	IV	9th August 1952
15	56	..	IV	10th August 1952
16	54		IV	10th August 1952
17	55	..	IV	10th August 1952
18	59		IV	15th August 1952
19	60	..	IV	17th August 1952
20	13	II	II	23rd September 1952
21	14	II	II	23rd September 1952
22	5	III	II	23rd September 1952
23	13	III	II	21st September 1952
24	41	..	IV	30th September 1952
25	3	II	IV-A	26th September 1952
26	4	II	IV-A	26th September 1952
27	5	II	IV-A	26th September 1952
28	6	II	IV-A	26th September 1952
29	1	II	IV-A	27th September 1952
30	2	II	IV-A	29th September 1952
31	8	II	IV-A	30th September 1952
32	9	II	IV-A	10th October 1952
33	10	II	IV-A	10th October 1952
34	11	II	IV-A	13th October 1952
35	12	II	IV-A	15th October 1952
36	2	III	IV-A	10th October 1952
37	6	III	IV-A	24th October 1952
38	3	III	IV-A	15th October 1952
39	1	III	IV-A	15th October 1952
40	7	III	IV-A	24th October 1952
41	8	III	IV-A	24th October 1952

Serial No.	Well No.	Group No.	Reach No.	Date of acceptance
42	6	II	II	14th October 1952
43	16	II	II	31st October 1952
44	15	II	II	25th October 1952
45	2	I	IV-A	31st October 1952
46	4	III	IV-A	27th October 1952
47	5	III	IV-A	27th October 1952
48	9	III	IV-A	27th October 1952
49	10	III	IV-A	27th October 1952
50	2	III	I	3rd November 1952
51	1	I	IV-A	4th November 1952
52	12	II	II	12th November 1952
53	3	III	I	12th November 1952
54	1	III	I	15th November 1952
55	5	III	I	25th November 1952
56	4	III	I	26th November 1952
57	1	. .	V-A	27th November 1952
58	2	. .	V-A	27th November 1952
59	3	. .	V-A	27th November 1952
60	4	. .	V-A	27th November 1952
61	5	. .	V-A	27th November 1952
62	6	. .	V-A	27th November 1952
63	7	. .	V-A	27th November 1952
64	11	. .	V-A	30th November 1952
65	12	. .	V	30th November 1952
66	12	III	II	30th November 1952
67	13	. .	V-A	1st December 1952
68	14	. .	V-A	9th December 1952
69	15	. .	V-A	9th December 1952
70	16	. .	V-A	9th December 1952.
71	17	. .	V-A	9th December 1952.
72	18	. .	V-A	23rd December 1952
73	19	. .	V-A	21st December 1952
74	20	. .	V-A	21st December 1952
75	21	. .	V-A	21st December1952
76	22	. .	V-A	21st December 1952
77	23	. .	V-A	21st December 1953
78	24	. .	V-A	23rd December 1952
79	25	. .	V-A	23rd December 1252
80	26	. .	V-A	23rd December 1952
81	27	. .	V-A	23rd December 1952
82	28	. .	V-A	23rd December 1952
83	29	. .	V-A	30th December 1952
84	30	. .	V-A	30th December 1955
85	1	III	II	12th December 1952
86	1	. .	III	20th December 1952
87	6	. .	III	20th December 1952
88	2	II	I	31st December 1952
89	11	II	II	31st December 1952
90	1	I	V-B	30th December 1952
91	2	I	V-B	30th December 1952
92	4	I	V-B	30th December 1952
93	5	I	V-B	31st December 1952
94	6	I	V-B	31st December 1952
95	3	I	V-B	8th January 1953
96	1	II	V-B	20th January 1953
97	2	II	V-B	20th January 1953
98	3	II	V-B	20th January 1953
99	4	II	V-B	20th January 1953
100	5	II	V-B	21st January 1953
101	6	II	V-B	21st January 1953
102	7	II	V-B	21st January 1953
103	1	II	I	9th January 1953
104	3	II	I	31st January 1953
105	1	I	I	31st January 1953
106	4	II	I	31st January 1953

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Serial No.	Well No.	Group No.	Reach No.	Date of acceptance
107	9	III	II	31st January 1953
108	11	III	II	31st January 1953
109	1	IV	II	31st January 1953
110	2	IV	II	29th January 1953
111	3	IV	II	31st January 1953
112	2	..	III	29th January 1953
113	7	..	III	30th January 1953
114	10	..	III	29th January 1953
115	11	..	III	29th January 1953
116	36	..	IV	21st January 1953
117	45	..	IV	27th January 1953
118	48	..	IV	27th January 1953
119	53	..	IV	22nd January 1953
120	57	..	IV	22nd January 1953

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: The hon. Minister has stated that out of the equipment of 120 tube-wells which were received by the Government only three tube wells have been installed and are working while the remaining 117 tube-wells are not working. May I know the reason for it ?

Minister for Development: A reply to this has already been given in part (g) of this question.

REINSTATEMENT OF TENANTS, ON THEIR LANDS IN THE STATE

***1525. Shri Wadhawa Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of tenants, district-wise' in the State who had applied for reinstatement on their lands in the year 1952 together with the number of those who were reinstated.

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : A statement showing the number of tenants in each district of the State who had applied for reinstatement on their lands in their year 1952, together with the number of those who were reinstated is given below :—

Serial No.	Name of district	Number of tenants who had applied for reinstatement on their lands in the year 1952	Number of tenants who were reinstated during the year 1952
1	Hissar ..	169	74
2	Rohtak ..	546	431
3	Gurgaon ..	208	102

Serial No.	Name of district	Number of tenants who had applied for reinstatement on their lands in the year 1952	Number of tenants who were reinstated during the year 1952
4	Karnal ..	116	56
5	Ambala ..	153	67
6	Simla ..	..	..
7	Kangra ..	145	18
8	Hoshiarpur ..	87	32
9	Jullundur ..	6	5
10	Ludhiana ..	109	37
11	Ferozepore ..	323	121
12	Amritsar ..	145	36
13	Gurdaspur ..	18	13
	Total ..	2,025	992

TRACTORS IN FEROZEPORE DISTRICT

*1533. **Shri Wadhawa Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state the total number of tractors, tehsil-wise, in Ferozepore District together with the area of land cultivated by them ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : A statement is given below—

Serial No.	Name of Tehsil	Number of tractors	Area cultivated with the tractors tahsil-wise (in acres)
1	Ferozepore ..	25	5,000
2	Fazilka ..	184	31,400
3	Muktsar ..	48	11,000
4	Zira ..	21	4,000
5	Moga ..	25	3,000
	Total ..	303	54,400

CHOS IN NARAINGARH TEHSIL

*1575. **Shri Sadhu Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the area of the beds of the chos in Tehsil Naraingarh and its proportion to the total area in the said tehsil ;
(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the chos are extending the area of their beds ; if so, the steps, if any, taken by the Government to arrest such extension ;
(c) the names of villages with said tehsil which are within the range of the chos together with the steps, if any, taken by the Government to protect these villages ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) Area: 43,517 acres. Proportion: Approximately 1/6.

(b) Yes. With a view to combating the evil of cho menace in the past a Regional Working Plan has been prepared for the whole of Naraingarh Tahsil, which deals with future soil conservation measures to be adopted in different chos of the Tahsil including torrent training works. Torrent training measures mainly consist of afforestation works combined with construction of cheap wooden—brushwood spurs which result in creating conditions favourable for silt deposition in cho beds.

(c) A statement giving the requisite information is given below :—

STATEMENT

The names of villages, under the cho-beds of Tehsil, which are within the range of chos are detailed below :—

SADA DEHNI CHO ..	Sarawan, Majri, Kanipla, Pandon, Rajpura, Sadhaura, Patti Nadi Par, Ismailpur, Fazalpur, Salimpur, Ratuwala, Ratauli, Aslam Nagar Bana Bahadaur Pur, Mirzapur, Gullapur, Jafarpur Jafari, Tior, Kotla, Pirwali, Kandaiwala, Chanchak, Manhari, Bohliwala, Todarpur, Tibri, Saidopur, Sultanpur.
MARKANDA NADI ..	Shahpur, Gadoli, Raiyanwala, Paharipur, Ganoli, Ambli, Khanpur, Labana, Rampur Raiyan, Ferozepore Raiyan, Bakala, Dehar, Nanehara, Rasulpur, Milk Jhalian, Bari Rasor, Chhoti Rasor, Shahpur, Hamidpur, Salehpur, Dera, Rao Mazra, Mianpur, Toka, Manakpur.
BEONA NADI ..	Badhauli, Sherpur, Parail, Rajauli, Panjeoton, Bari, Barheri, Chhotti Barheri, Baktuha, Salawala, Patrehari, Taharpur, Burj Shahid, Sadaqpur, Banaundi, Baragarh, Chhota Garh, Chhajal Mazra, Chhoti Basi, Akbarpur, Kheriki, Manakpur, Jangu Mazra, Mirpur, Bataura, Danora, Khanpur, Rajputan, Laha, Kohara Bhura, Fatehpur, Pulewala, Mandlai, Wasalpur, Ujjal Majri, Nowgawan.
AMRI CHO ..	Chhota Korwa, Babak Mazra, Charoli, Nagal, Sontali, Shahzadpur Majra, Bapoli, Chhotan, Kalal Majri, Khanpur Brahmanan.
AMLA CHO ..	Nasracli, Behlcli, Berpura, Dhanana, Gobindpur, Mankandpur.
BALYAI CHO ..	Dehari, Patwi, Dabkaura, Tasraula, Tasrauli, Kakrali, Behbalpur, Golpura, Baghwali, Tharwa, Samanwan, Hangoli, Hangola, Bhanwali, Bhagpur, Ferozepore, Dandlawar, Payarwala, Hareoli.
TANGRI NADI AND MEEKHAN CHO	Chhajju Mazra, Foron, Jatwar, Khera Jatan, Samru, Tapla, Sadapur, Raiwali, Chanipur, Fatehgarh, Jaspur, Khera Chani, Toda, Natwal, Nawan Gaon alias Khadar, Mauli, Tabar Sarakpur, Haripur, Khatauli, Hareoli, Bazidpur, Tibi Mazra,

TANDRI NADI AND MEDKHAN CHO—concld

Barauna Kalan, Dhandaru, Batwal, Sukhdarshanpur, Toka, Kanoli, Manak Tabra, Shahpur, Alipur, Garhi Kotaha, Bharaul Kambwala, Taorain, Badhaur, Ratewali, Talokpur, Bhud, Ganeshpur, Dudlopur, Khet Purali, Tibi, Bhila, Kot Shimlipur, Bhanun, Lana, Kherwali, Parwala.

List of villages where cho-training works have been successfully completed :—

(1) Laha (2) Shahazadpur

Names of villages where works are still in progress :—

Nadi		*Village*
Sadadehni	..	Tibri Saidopur.
Markanda	..	Gadauli
Begna	..	Laha.
,,	..	Ujjal Majri.
,,	..	Nogawan.
Dangri	..	Khera Jattan.
Medkhan	..	Kot.

CONSOLIDATION OF LAND HOLDINGS IN THE STATE

*1584. **Shri Ram Chandra Comrade**: Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the tehsils in the State together with the number of villages in each Tehsil where the work of consolidation of land has been undertaken by the Government ;

(b) the number of the villages together with their area in acres where the consolidation work has been completed ;

(c) the number of the villages together with their total acreage where the consolidation work is still incomplete ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon :

(a) (i) Number of villages taken up before 1st April 1951

Name of District		*Name of Tehsil*		*No. of villages*
Amritsar	..	Amritsar	..	16
		Patti	..	2
		Tarn Taran	..	16
		Total	..	34
Gurdaspur	..	Gurdaspur	..	17
		Batala	..	18
		Total	..	35
Hoshiarpur	..	Hoshiarpur	..	17
		Una	..	8
		Dasuya	..	12
		Garhshankar	..	12
		Total	..	49

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Name of District	*Name of Tehsil*	*No. of villages*
Jullundur ..	Jullundur ..	18
	Phillaur ..	22
	Nawanshahr ..	15
	Nakodar ..	11
	Total ..	66
Ferozepore ..	Moga ..	10
	Total ..	10
Ludhiana ..	Ludhiana ..	18
	Samrala ..	15
	Jagraon ..	6
	Total ..	39
Ambala ..	Rupar ..	9
	Kharar ..	15
	Naraingarh ..	5
	Ambala ..	21
	Jagadhri ..	21
	Total ..	71
Karnal ..	Thanesar ..	17
	Karnal ..	21
	Panipat ..	9
	Kaithal ..	8
	Total ..	55
Rohtak ..	Rohtak ..	5
	Gohana ..	2
	Sonepat ..	3
	Jhajjar ..	3
	Total ..	13
Hissar ..	Hansi ..	4
	Total ..	4
Gurgaon ..	Rewari ..	2
	Gurgaon ..	2
	Total ..	4
	Grand Total ..	380

(ii) **Number of villages taken up after 1st April 1951**

Serial No.	*Name of Tehsil*		*No. of villages*
1	Tarn Taran	..	268
2	Batala	..	374
3	Nurpur	..	122
4	Garhshankar	..	273
5	Phillaur	..	156
6	Moga	..	169
7	Samrala	..	196
8	Rupar	..	120
9	Thanesar	..	368
10	Rohtak	..	128
11	Hansi	..	94
12	Gurgaon	..	193
	Total	..	2,461

(iii) **Number of villages taken after 1st July 1952**

1	Nawanshahr	..	164
2	Zira	..	153
3	Jagraon	..	67
4	Jagadhri	..	367
5	Sonepat	..	212
6	Hissar	..	37
7	Ballabgarh	..	139
8	Karnal	..	28
	Total	..	1,167

(b) The total number of villages so far repartitioned is 1,545 with an area of 12,11,771 acres while the number finally attested is 857 with an area of 5,30,680 acres. The number of villages of which Khatauni Ishtemal has been completed in category (iii) above is 703.

(c) **The total number of villages which have not so far been completed is 3,151 with an area of 35,07,630 acres.**

ESTABLISHMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE STATE

*1595. **Shri Teg Ram** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Co-operative Societies so far established in the State ;

(b) the total number of new Co-operative Societies that were established and closed during the period from 1st April, 1952 to 31st December, 1952 ;

(c) the steps taken by the Co-operative Department to establish Co-operative Societies together with the yearly expenditure incurred thereon ;

(d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government during the period from 1st January, 1952 to 31st December, 1952 on all the Co-operative Societies in the State ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) 17,170 Societies were established up to 31st January, 1953.

(b) 644 new Co-operative Societies were registered while 439 Societies were cancelled.

(c) The field staff carried out intensive propaganda for organising different types of Co-operative Societies during their tours in villages. As a result of this, the addition in the number of such societies in the last three years together with the yearly expenditure incurred thereon was as follows:—

Year		*Number increased*	*Amount incurred*
			Rs
1949-50	..	259	19,14,669
1950-51	..	801	16,97,006
1951-52	..	768	15,50,885

(d) Rs 13,78,501 during this period.

EMPLOYMENT OF AMERICANS ON THE WORKS OF BHAKRA DAM

*1449. **Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut** : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Americans employed by the Government for the Bhakra Dam together with the branches in which they are employed ;

(b) the maximum and the minimum salary drawn by the Americans working for the Bhakra Dam ;

(c) the total sum which the American Experts referred to above are paid annually in the shape of wages and other allowances ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : (a) 41 American Specialists are at present employed on Bhakra-Nangal Project. They are working in the Design and Construction Branches of Bhakra Dam Administration.

(b) The maximum fee paid is 28,000 dollars per annum exclusive of Indian and U. S. A. income-tax.

The minimum fee paid is 8,400 dollars per annum free of income-tax.

(c) About Rs 40,88,000.

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE EMPLOYEES OF CANAL DEPARTMENT

***1494. Shri Teg Ram** : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state the total number of complaints received by the Government during the year ending on the 31st December, 1952, against the employees of the Canal Department for accepting bribes, the number of those against whom action has so far been taken ; the number found guilty together with the nature of punishment awarded in each case ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The total number of complaints received by the Government during the year ending 31st December, 1952, against the employees of the Canal Department for accepting bribes was 206, the number of those on which action was taken was 70 and the number of guilty 6. The nature of punishment awarded in each case is as follows :—

(1) Three were dismissed.

(2) One was suspended but after trial has been discharged by the Court.

(3) In case of one's pay is to be reduced to the minimum of the time scale (final orders are yet to be passed).

(4) One was transferred.

Other complaints were found baseless.

TUBE-WELL IRRIGATION IN THE STATE

***1547. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht**: Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state—

(a) the tehsils or sub-tehsils, district-wise, selected for tube-well irrigation in the State as a result of preliminary survey by the Government ;

(b) the number of tube-wells to be bored in each area referred to in part (a) above together with the number so far bored, being bored and to be bored under the Five-Year-Plan ;

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(c) whether any priority is intended to be given to certain areas in this connection ; if so, the order of such priority together with the reasons therefor ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : (a) and (b) A statement is given below:—

Serial No.	Name of District	Name of Tehsil	*Abdullapur-Radaur Scheme*		*Panipat-Munak Scheme*		*Jagadhri Tube-wells Scheme*		*T.C.A. Tube-wells Scheme*		*Total*	
			Tube-wells completed	Tube-wells to be completed	Tube-wells completed	Tube-wells to be completed	Tube-wells completed	Tube-wells to be completed	Tube-wells completed	Tube-wells to be completed	Tube-wells completed	Tube-wells to be completed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Amabla	Jagadhri	8	..	..	..	13	15	..	15	21	30
2	Karnal	Thanesar	10	..	..	..	128	100	..	40	138	140
		Karnal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75	24	75
		Panipat	..	..	24	..	..	..	..	85	..	85
3	Rohtak	Sonepat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	140	..	140
4	Ludhiana	Samrala	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total	18	..	24	..	141	115	..	355	183	470

Note. Jagadhri Tube-wells Scheme columns 8 and 9 comprises of 256 tube-wells along the Western Jumna Canal and its Branches for supplementing its supply. No direct irrigation is proposed from these tube-wells.

(c) Location of tube-wells in various tehsils of the State has been based on the advice of the inspection party of Tube-wells experts from the Government of India.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht: In reply to part (c) of the question, the hon. Minister has stated that the tube-wells have been installed in consultation with the Survey Party which had undertaken a tour of different *ilaqas*. May I know whether the tour programme of this Survey Party was chalked out by the Government of India or by this Government ?

Minister : I have no information about this.

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht: May I know which districts were visited by this party ?

Minister : This is a long list. The information could be supplied to the hon. Member if he had given notice of this question. I would ask the hon. Member to give a fresh notice of this question and the necessary information will be supplied to him.

Shri Babu Dayal: May I know whether this party visited Gurgaon District ?

Mr. Speaker : This question does not arise.

BHAKRA DAM AND NANGAL HYDEL CHANNEL

***1588. Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken by the Government to complete the Bhakra Dam and Nangal Hydel Channel within the scheduled time and within the limit of the estimate of the Budget already approved by the Bhakra Control Board for these Projects ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : 1. Appointment of Bhakra Control Board, which is charged with the over-all technical and financial control of the project, and sees that works are executed in accordance with the provisions made in the project.

2. Appointment of a Consulting Board of eminent specialists in high Dam construction. This Board advises on the technical feasibility of various design and construction problems connected with the work. The appointment of the Consulting Board ensures that intricate problems are thoroughly examined before a solution is accepted and the most economical design is adopted.

3. Appointment of American specialists experienced in various aspects of high Dam construction for assisting Indian Engineers in the execution of the multipurpose project.

4. Delegation of enhanced powers to officers in charge of construction to expedite the execution of works.

5. Appointment of a whole-time Chief Accounts Officer for the project, who is charged solely with the auditing and accounting of all transactions in connection with the Bhakra Dam Project.

6. Every effort is being made to get adequate experienced personnel though lot of difficulty is being experienced.

7. Supply of key materials like cement, steel is being tied up with the Government of India.

8. Construction Planning is being pushed on and orders are being placed for construction and permanent equipment as soon as the plans are ready.

9. So far as the Bhakra Dam is concerned, the separation of authority for execution and progress from the authority charged with ensuring specifications and quality has been effected. In this manner, both progress and quality are given equal importance and neither is allowed to be sacrificed at the expense of the other.

The target dates for completion of various works are :—

Tunnels	.. June 1953
River to be diverted in winter of	.. 1953-54.
The dam is to be completed	.. 1958-59.
Rail-cum-road bridge across Sutlej on the down-stream side of the Dam is expected to be completed in	.. May 1953.

[Minister for Irrigation]

Nangal Dam has already been constructed but for the installation of gates and gearing which is in hand.

Completion of Nangal Hydel Channel	.. By May 1954
Power House I	.. July 1954
Power House II	.. November 1955
Major portion of Bhakra Irrigation System	.. By May 1954 provided cement and funds are available.

Channels are opened as soon as they are completed. Thus, Sidhwan and Barwala branches and 5 new distributaries of Sirhind Canal were opened in 1951 and 1,32,270 acres were irrigated during 1952.

Expenditure up to end of January 1953, Rs 44.53 crores.

It is proposed to spend 25.71 crores during 1953-54 if funds to this extent are made available. The completion of this project depends upon:—

(a) adequate quantity of cement.

(b) adequate finances.

Shri Ram Kishan : While giving a reply to this question the hon. Minister has stated that it is proposed to spend 25.71 crores of rupees during the year 1953-54 if funds to this extent are made available. May I know whether the Government has made arrangement for the necessary funds for the year 1953-54 ?

Minister : This Budget is approved by the Government of India and it is for that Government to allot funds for this purpose. This Budget has not yet been finalized .

Shri Ram Kishan : It has been stated that the completion of this project depends upon (i) adequate quantity of cement ; (ii) adequate finance. May I know whether the Government has made arrangement for these two things ?

Minister : Whatever cement is manufactured in India , its distribution to different States is made by the Central Government. We have not been able to get as much quantity of cement as we had demanded. The Central Government is trying to give cement according to our demand. So far as the allotment of funds is concerned, we have put up our demand to the Central Government and it is for that Government to accept our demand.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO BLOOD RELATIONS

*710. **Sardar Darshan Singh** : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is the policy of the Government to allot land to blood relations at one place as far as possible ;

(b) whether it is a fact that one Ajaib Singh, son of S. Mangal Singh of Village Bua Nangal, Tehsil Ajnala, District Amritsar, has been allotted land separate from his brother, Puran Singh, son of S. Mangal Singh of Village Haishpur, Tehsil Fatehabad, District Hissar ;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative whether Government has devised any machinery to enable refugee land-owners to obtain a speedy redress against any allotment made in violation of the policy referred to in part (a) above ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the said Ajaib Singh, evacuee from Chak No. 519, Tehsil Toba Tek Singh, District Lyallpur, and owning "A" Class land there has been allotted uncultivable "C" class land on the bank of river Ravi ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) Yes ; provided applications seeking consolidation were made before 30th November, 1949, by which date State Government had invited such applications.

(b) Yes.

(c) There is no remedy if an application was not put in time and no area is now available.

(d) It is a fact that Shri Ajaib Singh abandoned first grade land in Pakistan and he has been allotted land in Village Nangal Amb, Tehsil Ajnala, District Amritsar, which falls in grade II. Allotment in a lower grade was unavoidable in view of shortage of grade I area.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister please say if the Government is prepared to reconsider at this stage the applications of those blood relations who had applied but who were not allotted land at the same place ?

Minister for Finance : If my hon. Sister brings any specific case of this nature to my notice, it will definitely be considered even at this stage subject to the availability of land.

DECLARING HOUSE NO. B-III-927 AS EVACUEE PROPERTY

***1515. Shri Dev Raj Sethi** : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the date on which House No. B-III-927 in Rohtak was declared as evacuee property ;

(b) the dates on which the Assistant Custodian, Rohtak, issued notices to the unlawful occupant to vacate the said premises ;

(c) whether the possession of the said house has been taken by the Assistant Custodian so far; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) In Punjab State possession of all immovable and movable properties was assumed by the Custodian,—*vide* notification No. 23-P and C/Reh-5927, dated 1st May, 1948. According to the records

[Minister for Finance]
of the Custodian Department, House No. B-III-927 in Rohtak was shown as evacuee property since the date of partition. Later on, plea of adverse possession put forth by Shri Chandgi Ram in respect of this house was rejected by the Additional Custodian.

(b) Several notices were issued for eviction of the unauthorised occupant but the dates of such notices cannot be stated as the record of the case is with the Custodian General, Delhi, in connection with a Revision Petition filed by Shri Chandgi Ram.

(c) Possession of the house could not be taken over because of an order passed by the Custodian-General, Delhi, not to evict the petitioner from the premises till decision of his Revision petition.

ALLOTMENT OF SHAMILATS DEH AND PONDS IN THE VILLAGES

*1534. **Shri Wadhawa Ram** : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that in some villages, Shamilats Deh and ponds have been allotted with the result that no common land is left causing hardship to the villagers ;

(b) whether he is also aware of the fact that the houses which are situated in Shamilats Deh have been allotted as culturable land ;

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) Shamilat land of the evacuees share which is neither in public use nor is specifically reserved for common purposes has been allotted to displaced persons because such land is subject to partition amongst the proprietors under the Revenue Law. Village ponds and those Shamilat lands which are in public use or are within the *lal lakir* of the *abadi deh* have, however, been left out of allotment.

(b) No.

(c) In view of the answers to parts (a) and (b) above, this does not arise.

APPLICATION OF PENALTY CUT TO THE EVACUEE LANDS ALREADY ALLOTTED TO THE DISPLACED LAND-OWNERS

*1542. **Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether Government has under consideration any proposal to apply a penalty cut to the evacuee lands already allotted to the displaced land-owners coming from West Punjab ; if so, the reasons therefor together with the details of the instructions issued to the authorities concerned in this connection ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : In pursuance of the provisions contained in section 8 of the East Punjab Refugee (Registration of Land Claims) Act, 1948, penalty cut at the following rates is imposed by Government in cases where the allottee of land has filed exaggerated claims—

(a) exaggeration less than 25 per cent .. No cut.

(b) exaggeration between 25 per cent and 50 per cent — 20 per cent on the basis of *Jamabandi* entries.

(c) exaggeration between 50 per cent and 75 per cent	40 per cent	on the basis of *Jamabandi* entries.
(d) exaggeration more than 75 per cent ..	60 per cent	on the basis of *Jamabandi* entries.

A copy of the instructions is given below—

No. 5/Legal and Appeal, dated 18th January 1950.

East Punjab Government, Department of Rehabilitation, Jullundur.

To

ALL DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS AND ADDITIONAL DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS IN EAST PUNJAB.

Subject :—DISPOSAL OF FALSE CLAIMS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF EAST PUNJAB REFUGEE (REGISTRATION OF LAND) CLAIMS ACT, 1948.

Memorandum

Under section 7 of the East Punjab Refugee Registration of Land Claims Act, XII of 1948, displaced persons, who had submitted false claims in respect of land held in West Pakistan are liable to prosecution. They can further be disqualified from the allotment of land under section 8 of the Act. A scrutiny of such cases reveals that about 2,399 false or exaggerated claims were filed by the displaced persons. After mature consideration Government have decided to deal with all such cases as follows :—

1. Persons who have filed totally false claims will be prosecuted irrespective of the area claimed. All such cases will be tried by a special Magistrate, appointed for the purpose at Jullundur.

2. Persons who have filed partially false claims will be dealt with under section 8 of the East Punjab Act, No. 12 (XII) of 1948. No prosecution will be launched in such cases. The scale of penalties to be imposed in such cases will be as follows :—

(a) No action should be taken where exaggeration is less than 25 per cent of the total area.

(b) Where exaggeration is 25 per cent to 50 per cent.	Deduction of 20 per cent from the allotment due (on the basis of *Jamabandi* entries).
(c) Where exaggeration is 50 per cent to 75 per cent.	Deduction of 40 per cent of the land allotment due (on the basis of *Jamabandi* entries).
(d) Where exaggeration is more than 75 per cent.	Deduction of 60 per cent of the land allotment due (on the basis of *Jamabandi* entries).

The exaggeration should be measured in terms of gross acres and not in terms of standard acres or classes of soils.

2. The following procedure is laid down for dealing with partially false claims :—

(a) Each claimant should be sent for and heard before any action is taken by an officer not below the status of Revenue Assistant, Rehabilitation, of the district in which he is to receive the allotment.

(b) Normally the Revenue Assistant, Rehabilitation, should impose the penalty prescribed, but if in any excepted case he thinks that the penalty as prescribed in para 1 (2) above should be reduced he should submit his recommendations to the Additional Deputy Commissioner. If he, the Additional Deputy Commissioner, agrees with the Revenue Assistant, Rehabilitation, he should send the case to the Director-General, Rehabilitation, Rural, for orders, otherwise the Additional Deputy Commissioner can reject Revenue Assistant's recommendations himself.

[Minister for Finance]

3. A list of claimants who have filed partially false claims with necessary particulars is appended herewith. It is requested that immediate action on the lines, indicated above should be taken in all such cases. If allotment orders have already issued these should be reviewed and amended accordingly before possession is delivered.

M. S. RANDHAWA,

Director-General, Rehabilitation (Rural),
East Punjab Government, Jullundur.

Shri Ram Kishan : Has any other action besides imposing cuts on their actual claims been taken against those displaced persons who had filed exaggerated claims ?

Minister : Yes, some of such persons have been dealt with in a different manner also.

Shri Ram Kishan : May I know how they have been dealt with and what is their number ?

Minister : I cannot reply to this question off-hand ; if the hon. Member gives due notice, the reply will be supplied to him.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

***1455. Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina** : Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Municipal Committees of Amritsar, Ludhiana, Karnal and Ambala are paying a dearness allowance of Rs. 5 to each of their employees getting less than Rs. 100;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether a similar allowance is paid by the Simla Municipality ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : (a) Yes. The Municipal Committees of Amritsar and Karnal are, however, not paying the dearness allowance at the increased rate to inferior servants, who get an all-inclusive wage under the Minimum Wages Act.

(b) No, as the financial position of Municipal Committee, Simla, does not warrant the proposed increase in dearness allowance.

PAYMENT OF SALARY TO SARDAR ISHAR SINGH

***1460. Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut** : Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that S. Ishar Singh was relieved from the Primary School, Hussainpur Lalowal, Sub-Tehsil Bhunga, District Hoshiarpur, on 6th November, 1950 ; if so, whether he was given the full payment of his salary up to 6th November, 1950, together with the amount thus paid ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes ; he was given full salary up to 6th November, 1950, at the rate of Rs. 40 per mensem *plus* dearness allowance at the rate of Rs. 25 per mensem.

LEVY OF PROFESSIONAL TAX ON THE VILLAGERS OF DATTA BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, HOSHIARPUR

*1461. **Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that Professional Tax has been levied by the District Board on the villagers of Datta, Tehsil Dasuya, District Hoshiarpur ; if so, the rate thereof ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Yes. The Professional Tax is levied by the District Board, Hoshiarpur, on all the persons carrying on professions, trades, callings and employments in the area under its jurisdiction including Village Datta. The rate of tax is governed by a schedule sanctioned by Government in 1947. It is now being substituted with effect from the 1st April, 1953, by a model schedule framed by Government and adopted by all District Boards.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : May I know if the District Boards are competent to levy the Professional Tax on weavers engaged in handloom industry also ?

Minister : This tax can be levied on all professions, trades and employments which are set forth in the Schedule.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST TEHSIL PANCHAYAT OFFICER, BALLABGARH, DISTRICT GURGAON

*1546. **Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether the Government has received any complaints against the former Tehsil Panchayat Officer, Ballabgarh, District Gurgaon; if so, the nature thereof together with the action taken thereon ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes. The complaints related to alleged misappropriation of funds and irregular conduct of Panchayat elections, etc., which are under investigation.

SUSPENSION OF BALLABGARH MUNICIPALITY

*1554. **Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether any enquiry was made into the complaints against the President and some subordinate employees of the Ballabgarh Municipality which has now been superseded ; if so, the result of the enquiry together with the action taken thereon ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes. As the allegations were not substantiated, the matter was dropped.

PRODUCTION OF WHEAT AND *kapas* IN FEROZEPORE DISTRICT

*1598. **Shri Teg Ram :** Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the total quantity of wheat and *kapas* produced in the Ferozepore District as a whole and in Fazilka Tehsil particularly during the years 1949-50,1951 and 1952, respectively ;

(b) the quantity of wheat and *kapas* exported from the above-mentioned places during the period mentioned in part (a) above ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a)

		Cotton in bales	Wheat in tons
	1948-49		
Ferozepore District	..	29,100	1,75,800
Fazilka Tehsil	..	19,200	Not available
	1949-50		
Ferozepore District	..	75,600	1,83,600
Fazilka Tehsil	..	45,300	56,600
	1950-51		
Ferozepore District	..	1,00,200	2,75,400
Fazilka Tehsil	..	61,200	66,900
	1951-52		
Ferozepore District	..	1,26,000	2,42,500
Fazilka Tehsil	..	75,600	65,700
	1952-53		
Ferozepore District	..	1,42,000	Not available
Fazilka Tehsil	..	85,200	Not available

(b) The figures relating to export of wheat are as under—

	Calendar year	Outside the circle but within the State (Tons)	Outside the State (Tons)
Ferozepore District ..	1949	31,365	11,316
	1950	37,926	47,963
	1951	85,973	280
	1952	39,460	18,443
Ferozepore Tehsil ..	1949	6,612	996
	1950	1,728	7,747
	1951	23,434	79
	1952	6,097	996

Similar information regarding the export of cotton is not available.

LEVY OF PROFESSIONAL TAX IN VILLAGE DAULATABAD, DISTRICT GURGAON

*1620. **Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit:** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Professional Tax has been levied in Village Daulatabad, Tehsil Ballabgarh, District Gurgaon; if so, the rate thereof ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes ; at the flat rate of Rs. 3 per annum per head, as the assessees in question practise professions for which the aforesaid flat rate is applicable.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : Will the hon. Minister enquire whether the District Boards charge Professional Tax at rates varying between Rs. 3 to Rs. 12 or Rs. 15 ?

Minister : The fact of the matter is that the District Boards are provided with a schedule which includes 19 or 20 professions, the rate of Professional Tax on which does not exceed three rupees per annum in any case. This schedule covers all the poor people and the Harijans. But apart frcm this there is another schedule also. The people who are governed by this schedule are charged more than three rupees as tax.

CO-EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE

*1474. **Shri Rala Ram** : Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of co-educational institutions ; primary, secondary and collegiate, in the State at present ?

Shri Jagat Narain : The number of co-educational primary schools and colleges on 31st March, 1952, was as under—

Primary schools ..	4,591
Colleges	44

There is one co-educational secondary school at Chandigarh but with the previous permission of the Department girls are admitted in boys' schools at the secondary stage at places where there are no separate girls' schools.

SCHOOLS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS IN TEHSIL FAZILKA, DISTRICT FEROZEPORE

*1596. **Shri Teg Ram** : Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of High, Middle, Lower Middle and Primary Schools for boys and girls respectively run by the Government, Municipal Committees, District Boards and Private Bodies in Tehsil Fazilka, District Ferozepore ;

(b) the total number of boys and girls studying in the above-mentioned four kinds of schools as on 31st December, 1952, together with the number of those who are studying Hindi, Urdu and Gurmukhi respectively ?

Shri Jagat Narain : (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is given below—

—	High		Middle		Lower Middle		Primary	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Government ..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal Committee ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
District Board ..	2	..	17	..	6	..	109	14
Private ..	2	..	..	1	..	..	7	6
Total ..	6	2	17	1	6	..	120	21

Total number of boys and girls studying in the above-mentioned four kinds of schools .. 17,889

Those studying Hindi .. 10,877

Those studying Gurmukhi .. 10,115

Those Studying Urdu .. 44

STATEMENT MADE BY THE CHIEF MINISTER *RE* FIRING IN THE YOLE CAMP.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : Sir, with your permission I would like to make a statement before the House.

A Press Communique with regard to firing in Yole Camp giving information that is available to the Government was issued on the 7th instant. Since then some newspapers have tried to create an impression on the public that Government has taken no further action in the matter. It has, therefore, become necessary, to describe briefly what has taken place since.

A magisterial enquiry into the incident was commenced almost at once. Subsequent to that, both the Commissioner, Jullundur Division and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Jullundur Range have visited Yole Camp. They also have held an enquiry there and submitted a joint report to Government. Both the report and the general recommendations made by the two Senior Officers of Government therein, have been carefully considered by Government. A senior officer of the Police of the rank of a Deputy Superintendent Police has been put incharge of the investigation. Government propose to see that this investigation is carefully supervised by even more senior officers.

The magisterial enquiry has also concluded and the report is on its way to Government. It will receive a close scrutiny on its receipt. So far two separate criminal cases have been registered with regard to the main incident which took place on the 5th instant. One of these relates to the alleged

contravention of the ban under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code and the alleged attack on the Police. The other has been registered against an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police for alleged indiscriminate firing. It is regretted that it is not possible to disclose the contents of the report of the Commissioner and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police because any such disclosure might prejudice the investigation of the cases which have been registered.

Now Sir, I would like to give in Hindi a summary of the statement that I have just now read for the benefit of those members of the House who do not know English.

It must have come to the notice of the hon. Members that in Yole Camp there took place a very sad incident due to which some precious lives were lost. You as also the Government and everybody else are very sorry for this happening on account of which so many precious lives which included one Deputy Superintendent of Police, two women and some children, were lost. Anyway, it is a very sad happening. Now what is done cannot be undone. But in this connection, so far as the duty of the Government is concerned, it is that if such a thing happens a full and thorough investigation should be carried out into it. In this connection, I have said in this statement that, when this sad happening took place, the Government at once appointed a Magistrate to enquire into it, so that all the available evidence may be marshalled and there may not remain any fear of its getting out of hand. Along with this, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police at once reached the spot. The district officers, of course, had already reached there. The Commissioner also reached there. The report of their investigation has already been received by the Government and it has thoroughly considered that report. Now the magisterial enquiry has also been completed and is on its way to the Government. As soon as it is received by the Government it would give it its full consideration.

But in spite of these facts, there are certain newspapers which are publishing certain stories under bold headlines which aim at showing that the Government is quite oblivious of the matter, and that it is not in the least affected by it. The purpose of such stories appears to be to show that the Government does not move in the matter, that no enquiry will be held and that nobody will be interrogated. I wish to tell this august House that the Government has acted without the least delay in this matter and what should have been done has been done without any delay. Besides, I wish to assure this House that the Government would not allow anything being done which may lead to the throwing of a veil over this tragic happening.

After inquiry proper action will be taken against the culprits. It is obvious that the contents of the report submitted by the Commissioner cannot be disclosed. The case is being registered and any expression of opinion at this stage might prejudice the final decision. I, therefore, beg to be excused by this august House for not disclosing the report as such a thing would be against law. But all the same I may assure the House that the Government will not allow this case to be hushed up.

TRANSACTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH 1953.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 19th March, 1953.

[Chief Minister]

Mr. Speaker, we wish that Government business be transacted tomorrow as a lot of work has accumulated. We gave one Thursday to the Opposition but now as work has accumulated and it is to be finished in time we want to make use of this Thursday for transacting Government business.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 19th March, 1953.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the Chief Minister had promised to allot two days for transacting non-official business but now one day is being denied to us. Besides the Chief Whip had made some adjustments with the Opposition and he is going back on his word. We had, as a matter of fact, agreed with him because of his promises. Those promises have not been fulfilled. Even Wednesdays are being utilized by the Government. In fact all this haste is being made for the Kangra election.

Mr. Speaker: Election is common to both the parties.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly be suspended and Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 19th March 1953.

The motion was carried

DEMAND FOR GRANT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Mr. Speaker : Now I call upon the hon. Minister for Development to move his motion.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir, I move—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 85,01,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Community Development Projects.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 85,01,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Community Development Projects.

I have received a large number of the following cut motions and as usual they will be deemed to have been moved.

1. Professor Sher Singh :

That the demand be reduced by Rs. one lac.

2. Shri Gorakh Nath :

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1,000.

3. Shri Mool Chand Jain :

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 101.

4. **Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut :**
5. **Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit :**
6. **Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina :**
7. **Sardar Darshan Singh :**
8. **Sardar Bachan Singh :**
9. **Sardar Nidhan Singh :**
10. **Shri Wadhawa Ram :**

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

11. **Shri Chandi Ram Verma :**

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

12. **Rao Gajraj Singh :**

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

13. **Shri Dev Raj Sethi :**

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

14. **Sardar Darbara Singh :**

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

15. **Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht :**

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

16. **Sardar Shib Singh :**

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

17. **Shri Benarsi Dass Gupta :**

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Mr. Speaker. Now I call upon Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht to initiate the debate.

Sardar Gopal Singh : On a point of Order, Sir. The Government had promised that the Transport and the Education Demands would be taken up to-day for discussion. In fact we had come prepared for that. But now this promise is not being kept and we are, therefore, walking out as a protest.

(*At this stage the Members of the Opposition walked out of the Assembly Chamber*).

Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht (Hassanpur) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, there cannot be two opinions about the expenditure which is to be incurred on the Demand under discussion, i. e., the Community Projects. Perhaps that is why the Opposite benches are to-day empty. Sir, I wish to submit that the independence that we got in 1947 was only a political independence and the real lovers of independence earnestly desired that the country should get economic independence as well. I am reminded of a quotation from the writings of Benjamin Franklin which aptly applies to the conditions that at present prevail in our country.

> There seem to be three ways for a nation to acquire wealth. The first is by war as the Romans did by plundering their conquered neighbours. This is robbery. The second is by commerce which generally speaking is cheating. The third is by agriculture the only honest way wherein man receives a real increase of the seed thrown into the ground in a kind of continual miracle wrought by the hand of God in his favour as a reward for his innocent life and his virtuous industry."

]Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht]

Mr. Speaker, keeping in view the fact that India mainly depends upon Agriculture Government has started the Community Projects. Government has been making this experiment since a long time. This experiment was for the first time started at Atawa in Uttar Pradesh under the name of the Pilot Development Project. The distinguished Indian Engineers as well as American Experts took part in that scheme. At the same time the Firka Development Project was being undertaken in Madras and efforts were made to make a success of the Sarvodaya Scheme in Bombay. All these endeavours gave an incentive to the Members of the Planning Commission to start these schemes throughout the whole of the country. The present scheme of Community Projects fall under the Indo-American Technical Co-operative Agreement (January, 1952), and are 55 in number. Four Community Projects schemes would be launched in our State on which the Government would be required to spend 65 lakhs of rupees out of which 29 lakhs would be given by the Government of India. In regard to the Community Project that is being started at the Faridabad, the Centre has agreed to make a substantial contribution. These Community Project Schemes would include various works like the development of irrigation, construction of roads, opening of new hospitals, manufacturing of scientific manures and the supply of better quality of seeds to the *kisans*. About 55 crores would be spent on these schemes out of which 5 crore dollars would be advanced by the American Government, Sir, gone are the days when the interest of lakhs of people were sacrificed for the benefit of a few persons. It was the age of feudalism, *zamindars* and princes. Afterwards the time came when more attention was being paid for the uplift of the general public. The present is called the democratic age. Then, Sir, the time came when J. S. Mill, a great politician and a philosopher, placed before the world the principle of 'the greatest happiness of the greatest number of people.' Under this principle the greatest number of people were to be given the maximum benefit. But the fact is that this principle did not claim to benefit and uplift all the people of the State. In this connection, I would like to mention the word 'Sarvodaya' which seeks to uplift all the people of the State irrespective of the fact whether a person is rich or poor, weak or strong.

Mr. Speaker, this saying is common in the rural areas that—

एक बूँद अर्श की और सौ बूँद चर्स की।

ਏਕ ਬੂੰਦ ਅਰਸ਼ ਕੀ ਔਰ ਸੌ ਬੂੰਦ ਚਰਸ ਕੀ।

Chars is a leather bucket which is used for drawing water out of a well. Sir this proverb means that every *kisan* cannot get water drawn by *chars* because he has not enough material resources at his command. Similarly, it depend upon the sweet will of the Governmnet to supply canal water to *kisan*. But, the rain supplies water to the land of every *kisan* irrespective of whether he is rich or a poor.

Our society is an Organic whole and not a mechanical combination, the parts of which can be separated at any time. It is an indivisible whole. That is why the Community Projects aim at benefiting and uplifting the people as a whole. If the Communists and other hon. Members in Opposition oppose these schemes I have no grudge against them. I am not the least disturbed on this account.

नई तहज़ीब को क्या वासता है आदमियत से,
जनाबे डारविन को हजरते आदम से क्या मतलब ।।

जिन्हें गदारियां मक्कारियां ही बन गईं ईमां ।।
भला उन को कहां तामीरे कौमो शान से मतलब ।।
ਨਈ ਤਹਜ਼ੀਬ ਕੋ ਕਿਆ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਹੈ ਆਦਮੀਯਤ ਸੇ,
ਜਨਾਬੇ ਡਾਰਵਿਨ ਕੋ ਹਜ਼ਰਤੇ ਆਦਮ ਸੇ ਕਿਆ ਮਤਲਬ ।
ਜਿਨਹੇਂ ਗਦਾਰਿਯਾਂ ਮੱਕਾਰਿਆਂ ਹੀ ਬਨ ਗਈਂ ਈਮਾਂ,
ਭਲਾ ਉਨ ਕੋ ਕਹਾਂ ਤਾਮੀਰੇ ਕੌਮੇ ਸ਼ਾਨ ਸੇ ਮਤਲਬ ॥

But Mr. Speaker, Government must take serious notice if the hon. Members of the Congress Party raise objections in this regard because they really want to bring prosperity to the country.

Mr. Speaker, it was Dr. J. C. Kumarappa who propounded the theory of Sarvodaya. He took a very serious view of the Indo-American agreement in this connection. He was against the decision of Government of India to allow the Americans to dominate over us by giving us some financial aid. According to him this experiment would prove detrimental to the interests of our newly-born State. He went to the extent of saying that our Government could have constructed less community projects but should not have accepted the financial aid from America. Because this objection was raised by an honest and a conscientious worker it was essential that a reply be given to it. There is no other responsible man in the country as Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. We have the pride to have him as the Prime Minister of our Country. While giving a reply to the objection raised by Dr. Kumarappa Pandit Nehru made it clear in Lucknow that the foreign aid was only 15 or 20 per cent of the whole expenditure proposed to be incurred on these projects. Pandit Nehru also said that no change could be effected in the implementation of these schemes because of foreign aid. He further asserted that he would never like to remain a leader of the nation if he were to kneel down and cringe before foreign countries. Mr. Speaker, I think there can be no other proper words to express one's feelings. He also added that he would never tolerate any foreign power dominating over India even if it were to convert the country into a paradise. How admirable the spirit of our leader is !

Mr. Speaker, our country would derive double benefit from these Community Project Schemes. The first and the foremost advantage would be that the condition of the masses would be considerably improved and it would also go a long way to tone up the administrative machinery. Uptill to-day in all the schemes of education or co-operative societies that were launched by the Government, people did not show real enthusiasm or national team spirit to make them a success. Sir, I would just explain what the national spirit means.

Let me cite an instance to elucidate my point of view. In the University boat race competition, all the boats are manned by eleven rowers but which of them reaches the goal first ? Naturally, the boat whose rowers display a team spirit. So, Sir, team spirit and self-confidence are the needs of the hour. And after all what are these Community Projects for ? Their specific aim is to create the spirit of self-help and self-confidence among the people and to enable them to stand on their own feet. And we can reasonably

[Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht]
hope that the execution of their Projects will revolutionize the outlook of those who constitute the administrative machinery since there is hardly a Department of Government—Health, Education, Agriculture, Finance—which will not be hitched to the wagon. As all the Departments will have to do their bit, red-tapism and unnecessary formalities will be considerably eliminated and moreover so far as the execution of work in connection with these Projects is concerned, there will be absolutely no scope for corruption which flourishes when the work is got done through only one Department. So, it is a matter for gratification that there will be no water-tight compartment so far as this work is concerned. Sir, the day is not far off when our dream of a New Punjab will be realized to which the hon. Minister had referred while speaking at Rohtak sometime back in these words — 'In this new era, officers will cease to be Government servants, they will be social workers'. If this experiment in social service proves a success, I am sure the administration of this State will be revolutionized.

Sir, it is also a matter for gratification that the Planning Department has paid special attention to the development of agriculture which is our most important occupation. In America, the provision made in the budget for the development of agriculture is Rs. 78 *per capita*, but in our country which is very poor it is no more than Re. 1 *per copita*. Now I have to say a few words with regard to the Five-Year Plan. Bombay and Uttar Pradesh are the two most progressive States in India. Under the Five-Year Plan, in Uttar Pradesh, a sum of Rs. 21 Crores has been spent on the improvement of agriculture which forms 22 per cent of the total expenditure ; in Bomaby a sum of Rs 17.5 crores has been spent for this purpose, representing 12.5 per cent of the total expenditure while in our State a sum of only Rs. 2 crores has been spent for this purpose, representing 10 per cent of the total expenditure.

So far as cattle-rearing is concerned, Uttar Pradesh has spent 1.3 crores on it which represents 1.5 per cent of the total expenditure, Bombay has spent 1.6 crores on it which represents 1.4 per cent of the total expenditure. In our State, a sum of Rs. 22 lakhs has been spent on it, which represents 1.2 per cent of the total expenditure while on dairy-farming a sum of Rs. 6 crores has been spent in Bombay, in the Punjab nothing has been spent on it. On irrigation, Uttar Pradesh has, under the Five-Year Plan, spent a sum of Rs. 33 crores, which represents 34 per cent of the total expenditure ; in Bombay also a sum of Rs. 33 crores has been spent on irrigation and this is 24 per cent of the total expenditure; in Punjab, a sum of Rs. 3.5 crores has been spent on irrigation which represents 17 per cent of the total expenditure. Expenditure on Bhakra-Nangal Project is not included in it.

The well-known economist Dr. Mukerjee of Uttar Pradesh has rightly emphasised the need for developing small-scale industries in Northern India. The Uttar Pradesh Government has under the Five-Year Plan spent a sum of Rs. three crores on the development of cottage industries, which respresents three per cent of the total expenditure. Bombay has spent Rs. 1 crore for this purpose i. e., one per cent of the total exependiture. In the Punjab, a sum of Rs. ·48 crore has been spent on the development of cottage industries, which is 2.5 per cent of the total expenditure.

I think our Government should pay a little more attention to animal husbandry because we cannot do without bullock power for quite a long time. Without better and more nourishing food and without improving the breed of our cattle wealth will suffer a grievous loss.

Now, Sir, I would like to make a brief reference to the work that has so far been done on the Community Projects in our State. In this short period, a 10½ mile long road and a 2½ mile long drain have been constructed in Batala and 3,500 maunds of seed of good quality have been distributed among the cultivators there. Without dwelling on the work done at other centres, I just say a few words about Faridabad Project which has been allotted to our district by the hon. Chief Minister. Work on this Project actually started in November, 1952. Without any desire to praise the people of my district, I cannot help saying that they have left others behind in the work of Community development. They are constructing a 22-mile long road, on half of which the earth-work has been completed. I now recite a couplet and resume my seat.—

ऐ चिरागे राहे मनज़ल ऐ वतन के नौजवान
कुवते अज़मो अमल है तेरी सूरत सें अयां
आशनां है वक्त की हर इक नज़र से दिल तेरा
है यकीन मुझे को बहुत रौशन है मुस्तकबिल तेरा

ਐ ਚਰਾਗ਼ੇ ਰਾਹੇ ਮਨਜ਼ਲ ਐ ਵਤਨ ਕੇ ਨੌਜਵਾਨ !
ਕੁਵਤੇ ਅਜ਼ਮੋ ਅਮਲ ਹੈ ਤੇਰੀ ਸੂਰਤ ਸੇ ਅਯਾਂ !!
ਆਸ਼ਨਾ ਹੈ ਵਕਤ ਕੀ ਹਰ ਇਕ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਸੇ ਦਿਲ ਤੇਰਾ !
ਹੈ ਯਕੀਨ ਮੁਝਕੋ ਬਹੁਤ ਰੌਸ਼ਨ ਹੈ ਮੁਸਤਕਬਿਲ ਤੇਰਾ !!

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Atwal (Nawanshahar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, Demand No. 44 relates to the scheme of Community Projects. To-day that it is under consideration , we have to see whether the money provided under this demand is really and justifiably needed or not. It is only by visiting the rural areas that we can understand the true state of affairs and realize the need for starting this scheme of community development. It is in fact a part and parcel of the Five-Year Plan and is a part of other schemes of development that are to be executed during this period of five years. This scheme aims at improving the economic condition of the people of India. I was happy to learn from the hon. Chief Minister that in every district of this State an Advisory Planning Committee will be set up to prepare a plan of development for each district keeping in view the economic conditions prevailing therein.

Sir, to-day we notice that the scheme of Community Projects has been launched in order to better the lot of the rural people. Accordingly six Community Projects have been started at various places in the State. These Projects aim at improving the plight of every person irrespective of his caste or creed and exploring ways and means to make his life comfortable. Under this scheme free and compulsory education will be imparted to the people, Vocational Training Centres will be established, irrigation facilities will be provided, waste land will be brought under the plough and means of communication will soon be improved. The primary object of his scheme is to undertake, first of all, the work of Consolidation of Holdings. Particular attention has been paid to other schemes such as disinfecting and cleaning of village drains and streets, removal of difficulties arising out of the non-availability of drinking water, Construction of play-grounds and opening of libraries and

[Sardar Gurbachan Singh Atwal]
clubs through which the public at large will be imparted education to be able to lead a happy and prosperous life. Besides, in order to meet the demands of ordinary necessities of life of the people, arrangements are afoot to establish small scale industries in all the six Community Projects. In addition to this the establishment of these industries will help in supplying the needs of the new Projects which may be set up hereafter.

Now, Sir, I would like to submit that the funds which have been provided for the execution of this plan are proportionately less than the volume of work which is required to be undertaken in this behalf. These funds are very meagre to execute an ambitious scheme of this nature. It is an admitted fact that a businessman would always like to invest the maximum amount in an undertaking which offers possibilities of profit to him. So I would urge upon the Government to finance this scheme liberally to obtain the desired results.

Besides, I would give another suggestion. It is this that for the successful completion of this scheme it is of paramount importance to establish a proper co-ordination between all the important departments of the Government. Since this scheme covers all the major fields of Government activity i. e., Agriculture, Co-operative, Industry, Medical, Health etc., it is necessary that for its speedy execution there should be a harmonius co-ordination between the officers of the various departments. It will have two-fold advantages. Firstly, it will eliminate unnecessary expenditure and secondly it will result in the early completion of the work. Besides, I am of the opinion that it will also go a long way to eradicate corruption. There is no denying the fact that people will cease indulging in such corrupt practices when they are educated and besides giving the poor a 'know how' of living prosperously, education will confer on the masses, hitherto extremely ignorant, a scientific outlook to view things in the right perspective. It is an admitted fact that corruption flourishes owing to the ignorance of the public at large. When they will be in a position to meet their necessities of life, it is but natural that they would not like to accept bribes from anybody. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Shri D. D. Puri (Jagadhri) (*Hindi*) : Sir, every citizen of India—man or woman—who has love for the country is almost enamoured of the Five-Year Plan. They think that this plan will usher in an era of prosperity in our country. I am of the opinion that it will not be wrong to style the modern age in the history of India as "the Jawahar Era". Our beloved leader, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had been taking keen interest in the development work even before his becoming the Prime Minister of India. Long before the implementation of this Plan, he had prepared a plan for the development of the under-developed regions of the country. We are very fortunate that to-day when we are going to build an India of our dreams, the reins of the chariot of our country are in the hands of our beloved leader—Pandit Jawahar Lal. He has prepared this Five-Year Plan for the uplift of the masses. Therefore, I think that it is in the fitness of things that every man and woman of the country should really be proud of this Five-Year Plan.

Sir, in to-day's discussion I would throw some light on that very aspect of the Five-Year Plan which is concerned with the Community Development Project. There is a history behind it. In January last year an agreement was reached between the United State Government and the Government of India according to which the Government of the United States of America promised

to give financial aid of the value of 86 lakhs dollars for the scheme of Community Projects. In rupees this amount aggregates to Rs. 43,35,00,000. There was one condition in this agreement, viz., that the United States Government would give this financial aid provided the Government of India would also contribute nearly an equal amount for the execution of this scheme. Accordingly on receiving this contribution of Rs. 43,35,00,000 from the United States Government a sum amounting to Rs. 34,38,00,000 was contributed by the Central Government for carrying out this plan of Community Projects.

The whole scheme is worked in this manner. Funds are first received at New Delhi from America. More funds are added to these and the whole amount is distributed among the different States in a particular proportion. The State Governments have also got to provide funds from their own revenues. When the money ultimately reaches the villages it can be spent by them on the condition that they make their contribution in the form of labour. This process resembles that of a river. At its source a river is nothing but a small stream but a number of streams pour their water into it and then it takes the form of a river. Similarly, when the agriculturists contribute their labour to these schemes they assume great importance. Some of my hon. Friends objected to our getting aid from America. Mr. Kumarappa also raised that objection and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru gave an apt reply to it. This objection has been answered on the floor of this House also. Another objection against our getting American aid was that the funds received from that country were ill-got and should therefore not be used for Community Development Schemes. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this was an important objection, but my friends who raised it should not forget that in 1942 their own 'fatherland' obtained aid from America. In 1939 their 'fatherland' tried to obtain help from Germany where Hitler was in power. What was proper in the case of Russia is being described as improper in our case. Whatever Russia does and in whatever way it does are right but everything that our Government does and the manner in which it does them are described as improper by these gentlemen. These things are said in order to mislead the masses.

In the modern age no country can afford to isolate itself from other countries and say that it would neither give nor accept any help from them Such an attitude is a thing of the past. Formerly, America also used to say that it preferred to be an isolationalist but such a thing is not possible in 1952. There is nothing undesirable in our obtaining aid from America for our Community Projects. Russia fought a war against Germany and we want to fight poverty and the low standard of living. Why should we not accept aid which is given in a manner which is in keeping with our dignity and self-respect ? Such objections are raised only to mislead the people. Labour and voluntary help constitute an integral part of the Community Project Scheme. Nothing is done for those who do not help themselves by giving voluntary help. Roads will be constructed at only those places where the villagers themselves prepare the katcha tracks.

Irrigation schemes are an important part of these projects but these will be undertaken at those places only where the villagers who are to benefit from them contribute half the amount. The remaining half is given to them in the form of loans. Similarly, the element of self-help must be there before the work of constructing pucca drains can be undertaken. This is a big experiment in self-help which is very essential for the service of a community or a country. All the phases of the economic life of the people have been kept in view while preparing Community Project Programme. The construction of drains, providing means of irrigation, opening of schools and hospitals and supplying of all the needs of the people have been provided for in this scheme.

[Shri D. D. Puri]

As I notice that this work is being done with great enthusiasm, I want to offer one or two suggestions so that it may become more attractive and be accomplished successfully. The first thing towards which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is the existence of what is called red-tapism. Work on this scheme commenced last year but the conditions on which loans are to be advanced had not been finalised till last week. An Advisory Committee consisting of 70 or 80 members has been constituted for this purpose. The Members of Parliament, Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council, District Boards, Municipal Committees and the Bharat Sewak Samaj are the members of that Committee. The membership of that committee is so large that it cannot meet more than once in two or three months. I would suggest to the Government to associate some non-officials with the day-to-day administration so that the work of these projects may be done more expeditiously.

Then, Sir, I beg to submit that tube-wells are to be set up at all the places covered by these Community Projects. Means of irrigation are not available everywhere. If possible, the Government should make electricity available at all places so that diesel oil engines may not have to be used. Electricity would become available in two or three years and if oil engines are set up now it will mean waste of money and unnecessary inconvenience to the agriculturists.

The whole machinery is moving so slowly that up to now no arrangement for coal has been made in the Project areas. Roads have to be constructed and coal will be needed for metalling them. The Punjab Government is no doubt making efforts in this connection but it should tell the Government of India once again that the want of coal will cause great hardship. Harvesting season will begin after some time and the agriculturists will have no time to prepare katcha tracks. It will mean postponement of the whole work till October or November. For this reason, arrangements for the supply of coal should be given top priority.

[*Mr. Deputy Speaker occupies the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had quoted the facts and figures relating to India. American Government has made a provision of 43 crores of rupees in this behalf and the Government of India has earmarked 34 crores of rupees for this purpose. If we compare the amount which is to be spent in our State we will find that the Government of India has to contribute Rs. 28 lakhs and the Punjab Government has made a provision of Rs. 51 lakhs. Besides this, the Government of India has decided to advance a loan of Rs. 1,41 lakhs to our Government for the development of community project areas. Thus it will be seen that we will have in all Rs. 3,20 lakhs. to spend on this scheme. I think it would not be possible to accomplish this stupendous task with this amount unless we enlist the co-operation of the public. This scheme can only be successfully implemented if we can create enthusiasm in the masses. The population of India is equal to one-sixth of the population of the whole world. If we succeed in creating enthusiasm in the people then with our huge manpower we can shake the whole world. The Government should treat the work of community project on a war footing. I hope that my hon. Friends to whatever political party they may belong would work with the same spirit and enthusiasm as they showed at the time of general elections in order to make this scheme a success.

Chaudhri Sarup Singh (Narnaund) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I think that no member of this House should have any objection to the passing of this demand of Rs. 85 lakhs which is at present before the House. It would have given us

great pleasure if our popular minister—Sardar Partap Singh—had put up a demand of Rs. 85 crores instead of Rs. 85 lakhs before the House. Sir, this scheme aims at improving the standard of living of India's millions and provides an opportunity to the people in the countryside to improve their lot mainly by their own efforts. After the attainment of independence the people of backward ilaqas, in which unfortunately my district is also included, had hoped that after the elections their representatives will carry their services to the Assembly and zealously safeguard their interests. In the united Punjab the Unionist Ministry was in power but it did nothing except awarding jagirs and squares of land to benefit their own kith and kin and did not take any step to ameliorate the lot the people of the backward areas. Now I must congratulate the Government for taking steps to abolish jagirs and thereby removing the injustice which was done to the poor people. Whereas our Government has prepared an excellent Budget it has also taken a commendable step of launching a scheme of six community projects in addition to the six community projects which have already been allotted to various tehsils. In this connection I cannot help saying that the Government has not allotted any community project to Hissar District which is the most backward district of the Punjab. Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Development to the fact that the scheme of community projects should have been first enforced in the backward districts where there are no roads or water to drink. Before this, the hon. Minister has declared several times that the Government is anxious to raise the standard of living of the village people and to better the lot of the poor. In view of this, I had thought that my district will be benefited by this scheme and thus the hopes of the people, who had been continuously fed on the promises of better times to come will be realised. But my sorrow knew no bounds when I learnt that the community project scheme was not going to be launched in our district in spite of the fact that this district is the largest of all the districts. In this district the whole area of Tehsil Hansi is irrigated by canals and the hon. Minister has always been saying that while allotting community projects preference will be given to those *ilaqas* where consolidation is going on and which are irrigated by canals. In spite of the fact that this tehsil fulfilled all the conditions it has been entirely ignored.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should confine his remarks to the demand which is under discussion.

Minister for Irrigation : This tehsil will get water from Bhakra Dam.

Chaudhri Sarup Singh : Besides this, it was stated on behalf of the Government that the community projects scheme will be enforced in those tehsils which are backward. In this connection I may draw the attention of the hon. Minister to Tehsil Bhiwani. This tehsil is the most backward of all the tehsils. Here the people have to face great difficulty in bringing drinking water from long distances on camels. In the end, without taking much time of the House, I would, Sir, through you, request the hon. Minister that he must keep Hissar District in view and consider it for starting a community project in Tehsil Hansi. 7

Shrimati Sita Devi (Jullundur City, South-East) (*Hindi*): Sir, our revered leader, the late-lamented Mahatma Gandhi had often expressed the opinion that real freedom would not dawn in this country so long as the rural population remained steeped in poverty, ignorance and squalor. He used to say that he was not satisfied with progress visible in the towns because according to him real India was to be found in villages.

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

If there is any action or activity or achievement of the Government which cannot be made the target of attack by any sensible person, it is the work done on the several Community Projects that have been started in our State. Nobody can stint in expressing his appreciation of this work. Perhaps this is the reason that the hon. Friends constituting the Opposition have thought it fit to absent themselves by staging a walk-out. They knew it well that they would not be able to inveigh against the Congress Government on this occasion.

The scheme of Community Projects has not been in operation for long but it has yielded remarkable results. All that was done from July to October 1952, was work of a preliminary nature. The foundation of this work was really laid on October 2, on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. To-day we feel very much gratified when we look at the report of the progress of the work and the results it has yielded. One cannot help congratulating the Government after seeing the enthusiasm that the execution of this scheme has engendered in the rural masses within a short period of time.

The programme envisages the starting of as many as 55 Community Projects in the whole country, aiming at the development of 16,500 villages with a view to benefit 12 million people. In our State, under this scheme, as many as 1,500 villages are being developed, which cover a culturable area of 7,50,000 acres. 2,500 square miles of land is being reclaimed and made fit for cultivation. Besides the utilization of waste lands, the scheme aims at improving every aspect of rural life—education, health, sanitation, agriculture and housing. The number of people who are being benefited is of the order of ten lakhs.

Now, Sir, I may briefly refer to the work that has so far been done for the information of the hon. Members of this House, and the time in which it has been done. In Batala, the people have constructed by their own efforts a six-mile long drain in 21 days. You must have read about this achievement in the papers. A sum of Rs. 40 thousand was raised by them by voluntary contributions for this purpose. The people have also contributed a sum of Rs 10 thousand for earthwork. Where are those brothers to-day who say that the people have lost their faith in the Congress and have ceased to follow it ? Had they been present, I would have dispelled their doubts about the trust and confidence that the people still repose in the Congress. It is a fact that ruralites are simple, unsuspecting folk, prone to be misled and excited very easily but the manner in which the work in connection with the Community Projects is proceeding is a clear proof of the fact that they are prepared to extend their fullest co-operation to the Government. At every place where such work is in hand, remarkable achievement has been made. The progress in education that has been made in Jagadhri within a very short period of time is really commendable. Schools have been opened in twenty villages and these are being run by the people themselves, 14 schools are being managed by the Panchayats ; a sum of Rs. 13 thousand has been collected by the people for the construction of buildings for these schools, out of which five have been completed and work is in progress on eight more . All these schools have been recognized by the Education Department.

A Community Centre has been opened in Nawanshahr also. It was inaugurated by the Governor. The Notified Area Committee of that place has contributed a sum of Rs. 20 thousand to the funds of the Centre, which will be utilized for the benefit of ruralites as well as urbanites. The newspapers have also been publishing reports about the satisfactory manner in which work

of Community development is being carried on in Nawanshahr. It is also a matter for gratification that the Municipal Committee of Banga has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 10 thousand for opening an X-Ray Department in the hospital there. My brothers can themselves imagine the benefits that will accrue to the people of rural areas by the opening of such a department in a hospital at a place like Banga. In this way, Sir, much good work has been done at the various Community Centres and in what a short period of time ! Many bridges and drains have been constructed, pits have been dug for the preservation of manure and a lot of progress made in the sphere of education. I feel like congratulating the hon. Minister on the devotion with which he has done his work.

Now, Sir, I want to offer a few constructive suggestions to the Government which will if adopted give a fillip to the work and make the projects yield better results. It is a truism to say that no work can be executed properly if it is not given adequate publicity. I am constrained to remark that our Publicity Department is not doing its bit so far as these Community Projects are concerned or at least not playing its part as well as it should. Barring Tehsil Sonepat in which the work done through the Community Projects is being publicized and necessary instructions given to the people in 36 villages by Bhajan Mandalis, no publicity work worth the name is being done at any other place. It is essential that this work should be done in every village which is included in the scheme. Without this, there can be no popular enthusiasm.

There is another important matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. I have seen that workers employed on work at various Community Projects hail from other districts. I think this is likely to hinder the progress of the work. If the workers are recruited from the adjoining villages or are at least those persons who belong to the same district in which the work is being carried on, they will be able to move about freely among the people and educate them properly by going from house to house and by contacting even their women-folk. If persons belonging to Ambala Division are engaged at a Community Project allotted to a place in Jullundur Division, they will surely have some difficulty in making themselves heard or understood.

Now I want to say something very important to the hon. Minister-in-charge in regard to the allocation of money for various purposes. I find that while for the development of Communication a sum of Rs. 31,51,370 has been provided in the Budget relating to the Community Projects, a comparatively much less amount, viz., Rs. 8,32,600 has been earmarked for education. Provision made for imparting social education is of the order of Rs. 4,90,400 which is quite inadequate, keeping in view the importance of social education for arousing enthusiasm among the people. Only day before yesterday I was going through the Budget speech delivered by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He had stated that at a place in Benaras District, a big bund was being constructed by about one thousand prisoners. Those prisoners are paid according to the volume of work they put in. But the people are made no payment. He writes in his report that at places where this experiment of the Community Project is being carried out, the people work with interest and enthusiasm. If this enthusiasm continues rising in this manner, these experiments can be extended to other places also. I, therefore, request the hon. Chief Minister that, if he were to increase the scope of social education under these Projects, it will be good. I believe that if these experiments of the Community Projects are made successful and a maximum number of them are carried out in every district of the Punjab, the villages can be developed very soon. I would like to tell you that, without doubts we have been free since 1947. But this freedom will not have any real meaning if these Community Projects are not a success.

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

Then, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to another thing. I have studied thoroughly the scheme of Community Projects. I expected that it would be very good project. But I find that the number of women among the workers who have been appointed for the implementation of the Community Projects is very small. After all these workers have to work in villages and they will not be called upon to work as Members or Ministers in the Assembly. Then why is it that the sisters have been given less opportunity for this social work ? I have figures with me which show that out of four Chief Organisers, there are three men and only one woman. Out of 26 Social Education Organisers, there are 16 men and ten women. But among the 150 Village Level Workers, not a single woman has been appointed. As I have said, they have not to become Ministers and as such the Government's power will not suffer a set back in any way by their appointment. They have only to serve in Villages. (*Cheers*). In the mater of service, sisters are in no way inferior to their brethren. In this respect, the Government should not have made any distinction. When the advertisement for these posts was published, it should have been written that women could also apply for them. After all these posts carried a salary of only fifty or sixty rupees and no squares of land were to be distributed. I believe that the Community Projects can be made a success only if co operation of men and women is forthcoming. I hope that the hon. Minister will pay attention to this suggestion of mine.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Rohtak City) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have carefully gone through this Budget of Community Projects. In it has been laid the basic plan of the future shape of this State, in a way. I believe that the Central Government as also our Punjab Government like other State Governments are on trial. All these Community Projects are well-conceived and are in a way a model of all other beneficent schemes. This is an experiment which if carried on right lines and made successful, would guarantee the economic independence of our country along with its political independence which it acheived some time ago. Therefore, the basic aspects of these Projects should not be lost sight of.

Sir, everybody admits that the economy of this State is an unbalanced one. Eighty five per cent of the population of this State depends on agriculture. This is quite uneconomic, unbalanced and unwise. If this economy continues to govern this country, its future is bound to be dark. In view of these difficulties and the coming dangers, therefore, the Planning Commission has advised that our aim should be that not more than fifty per cent of our population should depend upon agriculture for its livelihood. The remaining fifty per cent of the population should find out some other means of livelihood. You must be aware that in other countries, the urban population is on the increase ; but here rural puopulation is on the increase. I would, therefore, submit that we should provide some gainful employment to the people after weaning them from agriculture, and persuade them to take to the cottage industries. As this is an age of industrialisation, we have, therefore, to urge the people to run the small-scale industries on a competitive basis, in order to make them successful. This work is as difficult as it is important. If, therefore, we are able to set up industries in the rural areas through these Community Projects and are thus able to save the rural people from the rising danger of unemployment, it will be a right step and a matter for congratulations. But when I scrutinize this Budget of Rs 85 lakhs which has been earmarked for the Community Projects, I find a very important item missing here. This item is most important for the purpose of solving the problem of unemployment.

No provision has been made for this item. This item is in regard to the establishment of cottage industries which is conspicuous by its omission in the Budget. In other words, the play of hamlet is being staged but without the Prince of Denmark. I read the report pertaining to this matter and enquired from the gentleman concerned the cause of this serious omission. My hon. Friend representing Jagadhri said a good many things about industrialization in his speech, but he forgot as to how the whole thing would be carried out without the setting up of cottage industries in villages. Provision has, no doubt, been made for good ventilators, beautiful drains, sanitation and for digging of pits for the storage of manure. But I say that if the stomach remains empty, all these things are of no significance. The primary thing is the setting up of industries in the State whereby people can find employment. Now I have begun to realize as to why the item regarding the setting up of cottage industries has been omitted. I know that the Punjab Government cannot find a better Minister for Development than the present Minister and this is a matter for deep gratification and satisfaction for us. (*Cheers*). But I cannot help saying one thing and that is this that he lacks industrial bias. If we go a little further, we find that the Development Commissioner is an able I. C. S. gentleman. But he has never had industrial bias throughout his life. Then, after these gentlemen, we have some hope from the Director of Industries that he would draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the desirability of setting up industries and for the inclusion of an item in this regard in the budget of the Community Projects. I know that he is an able P. C. S. officer. He must be quite good at the drafting of letters and at detecting grammatical mistakes in the notes written in English and in the office rountine. But so far as his industrial bias is concerned, it is nil.

Mr. Speaker, it is correct that the Deputy Directors of Industries can do good work in the offices but my contention is that they have no industrial bias in their minds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member has taken too much time.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Sir. I am not irrelevant.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : There is no question of irrelevancy, the question is of time.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shall just say a few things and wind up. I was submitting that such people have been appointed who know nothing of industries. So many junior clerks are made Officers on Special Duty. It is possible that a person may be a good steno but that does not mean that he should prove an efficient District Officer as well. What is required is to find out whether a person has a bias for the work which he is called upon to do. We should not overlook the fact that it is not possible to have a provision of eighty lakhs every year. We must employ such persons who have an industrial bias and it is only then that we can hope for industrial development in the State.

The second thing is this that our system badly suffers from red-tapism. I do admit that our Development Minister is a courageous, enterprising and strong man but he cannot help the red-tape. We should try our level best to get rid of this red-tape. It is no matter if the commencement of some work is delayed by a few months but then we must employ efficient hands and should have complete faith in them. They should be given full powers. If the Government works on these lines there would be every reason to hope that the State will be on the road to development and progress.

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

My third submission is about the co-ordination of work. At present in villages and towns we come across something like seventeen or eighteen kinds of Inspectors. Except harassing people, they do no good work. These Inspectors are expected to be working in connection with Schools, Panchayats, Co-operative Societies, Sanitation, Controls, etc., etc. I say why can't one Inspector be appointed for all these things ? He should, of course, be given a smaller area. I think such an experiment if tried in connection with the Community Projects will prove very useful as it is sure to result in co-ordination of work. If we really want to rebuild our villages we should have less of staff but the employees must be very efficient and should be given full powers. I have no doubt that one Inspector can easily attend to the work of Schools, Panchayats and the Co-operative Societies. I would request the Minister concerned to give due consideration to this suggestion.

In the end, I must say a word of praise for the Community Projects. Like all other good schemes, these projects also call for a regular spirit and we should try to create it, otherwise they will meet the fate of the Grow-More-Food Campaign. The example of Russia is before us. There the schemes succeeded because the spirit of the people was working behind them.

Shri Ram Parkash (Molana) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, the Community Projects are under discussion and I also wish to say something of the places where this scheme is being put through. I mean to say something about Jagadhri. The Community Project Development Scheme is meant for the development of the backward areas but so far as the Jagadhri Community Project is concerned, the whole work is being done in the villages near the towns of Jagadhri and Abdullapur and the whole money is being spent on those areas. This means that the Community Projects are being put through for the development of the already developed places and that nothing is being done for the backward areas. Such a state of affairs cannot create satisfaction in the minds of the people of the Punjab. The hon. Members from Ambala have pointed out that my district is not to get any supply of water from Bhakra Canal. We thought we might be deriving some benefit from the Community Project. But such a thing could only happen if the scheme were properly worked. I may inform the House that Chhachhroli and the neighbouring areas of Kalesar are backward areas. The people of these areas are rapidly becoming victims of poverty. They have no clothes to wear and no food to eat. Shri Kairon was good enough to pay a visit to those places and he admitted that he had never come across a more backward area in the whole of the Punjab. It is really a pity that the Tahsildar and other officers of the Community Project dance to the tunes of the Congress M.L.A.'s. All roads, schools and hospitals are being built according to their wishes. A road has been constructed to provide an easy approach from the bungalow of an M.L.A. to his farm. I had pointed out to the Advisory Committee that something should be done for the backward areas like Chhachhroli. These areas can prosper with the construction of roads, schools and hospitals and none of these three things can be found there at Chhachhroli. Lakhs of people there are starving. No doubt, the ministers hold out promises for banishing poverty and starvation and for providing employment to the unemployed but in fact just the opposite is being done. The hon. Members of the House do not voice the grievances of the ruralites. They do not properly describe the unemployment that prevails in the Punjab. I think it is our duty to look to the development of the backward areas. At present we find that the Community officers are receiving their salaries all right from the Government but are rendering no useful service.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City North-West) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, it is gratifying to know that under the Five-Year Plan preparations are being made by the Development Minister to launch a successful campaign to banish poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease from the State. For the last three years efforts have been made to drive out disease, ignorance and hunger from as many as 16,145 villages which have a population of 11,70,000 covering 1,659 square miles of land. Ordinarily, only 1/10 th of the whole population of the Punjab State would be benefited from these schemes but as a matter of fact it is an experiment which is being made on account of the increase in the revenues of the State. I am sure that we would not only make this experiment successful but we would also enhance the prestige of our State by expelling hunger and unemployment from the country in the same way as we had victoriously carried out our political struggle against the British Government.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Ministers to some points in regard to the Budget of 85 lakhs which is placed before the House. When the Five-Year Plan was prepared Government had decided not to spend more than 6 per cent of the whole funds on the establishment. I would not like to go into details but if we glance at the present Budget it would be quite clear that far more than 6 per cent of the funds is being spent on the establishment, viz. the employment of drivers, expenditure on district headquarters and tehsil headquarters. This is a great mistake and if it is not rectified at this stage it would have very serious results.

Then, Sir, the next matter that I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Ministers is that the problem of food is of outstanding importance which is to be solved under the Five-Year Plan. In this connection, I would state that our country imports foodgrains worth crores of rupees every year which puts a heavy strain on our finances. Only last year foodgrains worth 100 crores of rupees were imported. Government wants to overcome this difficulty within a period of three years. But it would not be possible to do so merely by making empty speeches. Sir, as has been repeatedly emphasised in the Community Projects Scheme the solution of this problem would be our main objective. We would do our best to increase the per acre yield of foodgrains. In this regard I would submit that in other countries of the world per acre produce of rice is three times that in our country. If I quote facts and figures in this connection you would come to know the real position of our country in this connection. In America the average rice yield is 1,468 lbs. per acre, in Canada it is 2,180 lbs. per acre and in Italy it is 2,000 lbs. whereas in India the average rice yield is only 700 lbs. per acre. Similar is the case with wheat. It is not all. In a civilized country like America 18 per cent of the population depends upon agriculture and despite this fact the people of that country roll in riches, whereas according to the census of 1951, 81 lakh people out of 126 lakhs depend upon agriculture in our State and yet the holdings are very small and the yield is very low. I am at a loss to know how the conditions will improve. I would like to suggest that on the lines of the Community Projects Scheme and the Grow-More-Food Campaign, Village Production Councils should be established whose duty it should be to find out suitable soils for the growth of particular crops in villages. These Councils should make various experiments in this direction and make efforts to bring about progressive increase in the yield of different crops every year. These Councils should work on the lines of the Central Advisory Boards set up under the Grow-More-Food Scheme and should leave no stone unturned to increase production on scientific lines. I think if the Government cares to act on the recommendations of the Central Advisory Board, the food production can be raised from 10 to 15 per cent.

[Shri Ram Kishan]

Sir, I would make a few more observations and finish my speech. Firstly, I would submit that the Community Project Scheme is not being properly worked. In Nawanshahr Tehsil some basic schools have been opened under the Community Project Scheme but the teachers have not been paid their salaries for the last 4 or 5 months. These schools have been opened by private efforts but the Government has not fulfilled its promise of contributing half of the total expenditure. What I mean to drive at is that even the fundamental principles of the scheme are not being adhered to. Secondly, I would submit that under these schemes we have to infuse consciousness, intellectual faculties, inspiration and enthusiasm in the minds of the people and to achieve this end I would suggest to the Government to do propaganda through the Press, Radio and by distributing small leaflets and pamphlets. Thirdly, I would like to suggest that after every fortnight a Community Project day should be observed at the places where these projects are being worked. In this connection, I would submit that the National Week is going to be observed throughout India from 6th April to 13th April. Mahatma Gandhi had reserved this National Week for constructive work, I would, therefore, suggest that this week may be called the Community Project Week so that all the officials from the Patwaris right up to the highest officer may devote their special attention to this work.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) (*Hindi*) : Sir, Community development is not anything new to India. The idea of development on communal lines originated in the most ancient period of our history. These Community Projects that have been taken in hand remind us of the glorious part of our country, when people worked in and for the communities with which their fortunes were linked and every work was done on a corporate and communal basis. It is our good fortune that this institution is being revived in the form of Community Projects after a very long time. In the present century, work along the lines of these project was started in Soviet Russia where it met with great success especially because this scheme of community development was enforced there in all its aspects all at once and not in parts and blocks as it is being implemented here. In Russia owing to the manner in which it was executed, in a very short time this scheme engendered considerable zest and enthusiam among the people. Voluntary labour and Government money combined to make this scheme a great success in Russia. By dividing the work into blocks and parts, we are not doing any thing conducive to the creation of a similar enthusiasm among our people. We have not been able to create the necessary competitive spirit, as between one tehsil and another, one district and another, or between one State and another. In spite of his best efforts, the hon. Minister for Development has not been able to give an impetus to the work of community development. However, I congratulate the hon. Minister on the zeal and diligence he has displayed in the discharge of his duties and at the same time offer a few suggestions to him which if adopted will ensure the success of the Community Projects.

Firstly, I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the execution of the Five-Year Plan in our State is estimated to cost Rs. 29,53 lakhs, out of which a sum of about Rs. 8 crores has already been spent in the course of the first two years and a sum of Rs. 8,?2 lakhs has been provided in the next year's Budget for this purpose. This means that a sum of Rs. 17 crores will have been spent at the end of the first three years and still the hon. Finance Minister has stated in his Budget speech that the expenditure incurred by the Government in connection with the execution of this scheme

is proportionately sound keeping in view the time that has elapsed. I think this is not correct. This expenditure is definitely excessive ; it appears that a very large portion of the money has been spent on preliminary and preparatory work in the initial stage. I wonder how it will be possible to execute the scheme with the remainder— a scheme which is supposed to convert our country into a paradise !

Secondly, our national self-sufficiency depends upon the success of this scheme. In this connection, we have to bear in mind two or three considerations. First, we have to see how much of the total Budget of our State is being spent on the development of industries. In the Budget under discussion, a sum of Rs. 33,37,000 has been provided for industires and a sum of Rs 51,17,000 for the development of agriculture. Keeping in view the fact that the progress of our State depends upon these, I think that adequate sums of money have not been provided for these purposes. I am not oblivious of the fact that some more money has been provided separately for the purposes under the Five-Year Plan but I think even with the help of that there cannot be sufficient development.

Then, Sir, the Panchayats that are going to be established should have enough money at their disposal over and above that necessary to meet the initial expenses since they have to perform such important functions as the imparting of education to the ruralites and do other rural uplift work. Receipts from the funds allocated to them under the Gram Panchayat Act will be meagre—almost insignificant. This is, of course, true that Panchayats are the proper medium for rural uplift work.

Along with the development of industries in the rural areas and banking facilities, marketing facilitites are also very necessary. To provide these facilities, good roads and means of transport are an essential prerequisite. So, I would urge the necessity of constructing roads and establishing co-operative banks as early as possible.

At this stage Mr. Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair and Mr. Speaker occupied it.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh (Adampur) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, it is a matter for gratification that to-day we are discussing that portion of the Budget which provides money for rural uplift. I am very hopeful of this scheme of Community Projects resulting in an all-round rural development and improvement in the conditions of health, education, agriculture, roads, etc., in the rural areas. Had my hon. sister Shrimati Sita Devi fought an election in a rural constituency, she would have realised the paramount need for the construction of roads in rural areas and then she would not have called in question the reasonableness of providing Rs. 29 lakhs for this purpose.

Sir, my submission is that our Government is anxious not merely to construct roads but also to open more schools and health centres and develop industries with a view to enable the rural people to earn a decent livelihood. Sir, if you look towards the rural areas, you will find that the only occupation on which people can fall back is agriculture. A majority of the rural population consists of those people who cultivate the land of the land-owners. As a result of the Tenancy Act these landlords ousted the poor and sturdy peasants from their lands. In the circumstances, Sir, I would submit to

[Sardar Gurbanta Singh]
the minister-in-charge that a majority of these people are sitting idle. They have got no work to earn their livelihood. Besides, our Harijan brethren are engaged in three industries, namely, tanning, weaving and shoe-making—which provide them with the means of earning their livelihood. The circumstances obtaining at present clearly go to show that all these three industries have altogether been ruined. In view of the large-scale consumption of crome leather, the demand for country-made leather has considerably decreased. Prior to the partition of India, a wide spread publicity was given to 'Khadi' but owing to the increased demand of mill-made cloth nobody, excepting a few high-ranking congressmen, liked to wear 'Khadi'. With the ruination of these three indutstries, I am to tell you, Sir, that as many as eighteen lakh Harijans have been thrown out of employment. I, therefore, feel that whereas we are determined to better the lot of the rural people, it is necessary that we should develop industries in villages. Of course, provision amounting to Rs. 1,50,000 has been made for this purpose to be spent at Jagadhri, Sonepat, Batala and Nawanshahr, but I think it is a very meagre sum. The fact of the matter is that although some steps have been taken by the Government to develop such industries at Batala and Nawanshahr but nothing has been done to promote the development of such industries at Jagadhri and Sonepat.

Besides, Sir, it has been remarked from the Opposition Benches and the Government is also aware of the fact that leather industry in the Hariana Prant has almost been ruined. The main reason for this failure is that during the last general elections all the Harijans inhabiting this area voted for the Congress against the wishes of their landlords. No zamindar allows any Harijan to sell leather—in a way they have gone to the extent of doing a social boycott against them. The dead body of animal is buried but not handed over to the Harijans for obtaining leather. No steps have been taken under the Community Project Scheme to give an impetus to this industry. Of course, a provision of Rs 66,000 has been made for leather work in the Nawanshahr Community Project but I think that it is a very small sum. More funds should be released to carry on this work on a large scale. Therefore, in the end, I would urge upon the Government—in case it is anxious to better the lot of the rural population and to improve the plight of Harijans—the necessity of paying greater attention towards the development of cottage industries so that the unemployed people may be able to increase production in the State.

Mr. Speaker : Before the discussion proceeds, I would like to inform the House that the hon. Minister will make his speech at 5.00 p.m. Now it is quarter to five. Besides, I have got a list containing the names of a number of hon. Members who have yet to speak. I would, therefore, call upon Members myself to speak.

Shri Khushi Ram (Amb) (*Hindi*) : Sir, all the resources of the State have been reserved for the development of the rural areas under the Five-Year Plan. Schools, Colleges and Hospitals will be constructed on the common lands in villages which, besides giving other benefits, will put an end to the age old disputes arising out of common lands in villages. Apart from this, large cultivable areas lying uncultivated in villages will be brought under irrigation.

Mr. Speaker: Certain parties whose object it is to indulge in criticism against the Government are concocting many stories against this scheme. Some observe that foreign aid has been accepted for carrying out this scheme of Community Projects, while others say that foreign Governments have their own axes to grind in giving such aid to India. But through you, Sir, I

would like to remark that the party which has got this totering house in legacy from the British, is very anxious to strengthen its walls so that the people desirous of living in it may have no fear in entering through its gates. But if in spite of such realities, the people do not exercise any restraint in indulging in such criticism they will only create chaos and lawlessness in the country. I can only say that their attitude will only hinder the progress of the country.

Sardar Khem Singh (Amritsar) (*Punjabi*) : It is a matter for great pleasure, Sir, that Community Projects are under the charge of our lion hearted Minister for Development. I hope—not only I but the entire masses of the State and more particularly the Scheduled Caste people—that the Minister for Development will strain his every nerve for the accomplishment of the task which has been undertaken under the Community Project scheme. It pains me to find that Punjabis were reduced to straitened circumstances after the partition. Why? The main reason was that the people crossed over to this side of the border after having been up-rooted and after having suffered many clamities and sufferings. I admit that our Government has endeavoured to better the lot of the ruralites by allotting Community Projects in certain areas. There is no denying the fact that the Government are doing their utmost to provide various amenities such as hospitals, schools and roads to the people living in the rural areas. I agree that they have also seen the miserable plight of the people living in the countryside. Moreover, I am pleased that our Minister for Development also hails from the countryside and that he realises the difficulties and hardships confronting the ruralites. But despite all these things I can say that he is not giving as much attention to improve the lot of the villagers as he should do. Therefore, I would like to tell the hon. Ministers that the plight of the villagers and particularly that of the Harijans is very miserable. They do not have any educational facilities. They are ill-clad and ill-fed. I admit that there was a time when the Punjab enjoyed the reputation of being called the granary of India and it used to meet the demands of the other States. But to-day owing to the shortage of foodgrains, the people are faced with many hardships. Of course, I myself subscribe to the view that the implementation of this scheme will result in augmenting the food production of the State and will banish hunger from our land. I think that the hon. Minister is trying his best to make the Community Project Scheme a success and I congratulate him for it. However, I beg to submit that the members of the Scheduled Castes are very backward and their interests should not be ignored while doing this work. They have not been given full representation in these schemes and I shall request the hon. Minister to give them their proper share so thatth eir conditions may improve.

Shri Lajpat Rai (Hansi) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I understand the words 'Community Project' to imply the same thing as the word 'Sarvodya Project' means 'Uday'. In my opinion the Community Projects are not new to this country. Such institutions existed in the past also. Before his death, Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, placed such a scheme before the country and for putting that into effect he established 'Sarvodhya Samaj'. When the Community Project Scheme was started in the country, the work to be done under it in this State was entrusted to the Minister who could do it in the best and the most successful manner. At the same time I wish to make a few suggestions and hope that the hon. Minister will consider them. The sum of Rs. 85 lakhs which is proposed to be spent under this scheme would not yield the best results if it is spent on constructing drains, roads and

[Shri Lajpat Rai]
ventilators. In this connection, I am reminded of the time when the Co-operative Societies Scheme was statred in the Punjab. The agriculturists took loans from the Co-operative Banks but instead of using the money for the purchase of bullocks or seeds they spent it on marriages or houses. In order to make the best use of these eighty-five lakhs of rupees, small cottage industries should be started with it and the people should be taught to work on a co-operative basis so that their produce may be exported without any difficulty and they may get the articles required by them direct from the factories. In my opinion the condition of the people can be improved in this way only. Their condition will not improve much if this amount is spent in the manner in which it is proposed to be spent.

I beg to submit, Sir, that no Community centre is proposed to be started in district Hissar. It is probably due to the fact that Bhakra Canal will irrigate that district. In my opinion there should be a Community Centre in that district also.If the Government cannot provide funds for that pourpose we shall collect the necessary amount. The hon. Minister should come to that district and start a centre there.

Shri Babu Dayal (Sohna) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, the idea of Community Projects first occurred to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and an Indo-American pact was signed to give a practical shape to the scheme. The American ambassador in India, Mr. Chester Bowles wrote a book entitled 'New India'. In that book he stated that assistance should be given for the development of not only India but the whole of Asia, because the absence of proper development would lead to frustration among the masses in these poor countries. Such conditions might result in engulfing all the Asian countries in communism. He has further stated that there was more frustration among the educated and it was essential that they should get some employment. It was to achieve that end that the Community Project Scheme was introduced. This work is being done to improve the economic condition of the country. The wealth of a country consists not in its revenues but in the labour available there. If that labour is utilized in a proper manner according to a set plan, poverty from the country can be completely banished

Shri Jagdish Chandar (Shahabad) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views but the time at my disposal is so short that I shall be able to refer to a few important points only. First of all I beg to submit that no principle appears to have been followed at the time of starting the Community Projects in this State. I mean that no *criteria* was laid down for determining the tehsils and districts in which this scheme should be worked first. It appears that the Government decided to start Community Centres at those places where some people advised them to start the same. Consolidation work is going on at present in almost every tehsil and district of the State. It would have been better if these Centres had been first opened either in those places where consolidation work was being done or in those which were comparatively backward This would have enabled the consolidation work to be completed at places where Community Centres were started. The staff engaged on consolidation work could do this work and additional staff would not have been required. Small paths have to be constructed in villages where consolidation of holdings is being done. The same paths can be made *pucca* after putting earth on them. In this manner the work of constructing roads can be done better at those places where consolidation work is being done.

Similarly I think that in the areas where the community projects have been started the management of the schools is being done by the Education Department. I think that the schools in these tehsils can develop with their own efforts. The Government should, therefore, enforce the scheme of community projects in tehsils which are very backward and where the work of consolidation is in progress.

Besides this, the Government is spending money on adult education scheme. In this connection the Government has gained experience at the places where this scheme is in force. I cannot say about the Punjab but so far as Karnal district is concerned, this scheme has not been successful. The Government has made a provision of Rs 45,900 for adult education at Sonepat, Nawanshahr, Nilokheri and Faridabad. Experience has shown that the progress of adult education centres has not been heartening because men of advanced age do not pay attention to studies. I am, therefore, of the view that instead of spending this money on adult education the Government should spend it on girls' education. I would suggest that the hon. Minister should devote his attention more towards girls' education. Moreover, the schools which are opened in villages for boys and girls receive their grants from the district boards. I think that such grants should not be given through the district boards. We know that the plight of teachers of district boards is very miserable and the arrangements in the district board schools are far from satisfactory. I can say about the district board schools of Karnal that there are no mattings nor chairs for boys to sit on. If there is any chair it is in a rickety condition. Under these circumstances, I think that these schools should receive their grants directly from the Education Department.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I am very sorry to say that the members of the Opposition have staged a walk-out to-day. In view of this although the members of this side of the House have been able to get more time to speak yet I think that without Opposition parliamentary system is considered to be incomplete. In their absence, we had a dull day but nevertheless constructive suggestions have been made by the hon. Members which the Government greatly welcomes. So from this point of view I should say that there has been greater concreteness and utility in to-day's discussion. The members of the Opposition had a grouse against the Government that they had not been given an opportunity to discuss Education and Transport. But as this day had been fixed for discussion of community project which has a close bearing on the economy of the State it would have been better if they had remained sitting and offered their constructive suggestions to the Government.

India has attained independence after long years of slavery and after the achievement of political independence it has kept itself outside the sphere of influence of any other country. Whatever policy is framed by our Government with regard to foreign affairs or commercial or agricultural matters it is always independent and free from any interference of any other country. It means that our country is to-day an independent sovereign State. Our Government would always continue to pursue its own policy with freedom of thought and conscience and would never allow itself to be whipped up by any foreign country.

The object of U.S.A. aid to us has never been to make us a tool for the furtherance of its policy nor could we ever accept that aid with such object. Our country has recently won freedom and its financial position is not stable

[Minister for Development]
as that of other independent countries. It was, therefore, the prime need of the country to have asked for financial aid from some other country which may be willing to render help to the economically backward countries. America has advanced us this loan so that we may be able to solve our economic problems. We have never even for a moment imagined that this foreign aid would in any way influence our foreign policy. The people who think that some political strings are attached to this foreign aid perhaps do not wish that our country should make any progress. They only want to gather somehow or other some material to exploit the Government and to paint it in dark colours. The Government of India after the attainment of Independence had to devise ways and means of systematically developing our country and thereby improving the lot of the people especially of those who are living in the countryside. I think that this scheme of community projects envisages an all-round development of rural areas and it will go a long way in improving the standard of living of the people. If we raise the standard of living of the village folk who form 85 per cent of the population of India then I think that the people in urban areas would automatically be in prosperous condition. Economic development of India depends upon the uplift of the people in villages. Since the attainment of independence the economic policy of the Government has been diametrically opposite to the one which was followed during the British regime. The British Government had built up metalled roads to link towns with mandis so that it may carry the raw material from one place to another. Their economic policy aimed at dumping of foreign goods in the Indian market and taking large quantities of raw materials from India to their own country. There is no denying the fact that they deliberately tried to suppress and repress the people living in cities for their own benefit. But now the Government is concentrating its efforts on making the people in cities economically strong so that they may also make a headway side by side with their brethren in the rural areas.

Now, our towns will have to discard the imported goods and instead try to consume the raw material produced in the rural areas of our country and convert it into manufactured goods. This change will remove our economic dependence on other countries and usher in the era of economic independence. These community projects are the first milestone on the road to that independence.

Many hon. Members have complained about and made a grievance of the fact that such projects have not been allotted to their districts or tehsils. None of them had anything to say by way of opposition to this scheme ; on the other hand they have given expression to irritation at having been left out. Sir, I consider their irritation in this matter as commendation and appreciation of the scheme of community projects which the Government has started with a view to promote the well-being of the people. This irritation indicates their realization of the fact that they cannot ascend the ladder of progress without such schemes of community development. So far so good, but too much irritation is not good. My hon. Friends may rest assured that this scheme will be extended to all districts and tehsils one by one. First, let us gain experience and knowledge of the fact as to how best results and maximum success can be achieved. We have also to see how the people respond and how much enthusiasm and zest they display.

Hon. Friends from Hissar have also complained that no community project has been allotted to their district. They have probably overlooked the fact that after 1954 supplies of water from Bhakra Dam to this district

will be so abundant that it will be in a position to make the same progress as will be brought about by community projects in other districts. Hissar will definitely have a good share in the return of the expenditure that is being incurred on the Bhakra Project. By this, I do not mean that this district will be totally ignored so far as the scheme of community projects is concerned. First, we want to see what progress the people of Hissar can make after the supply of water for irrigation purposes.

Our plan is first to cover the whole of the Tehsil in which the work of community development has been started and then to try to cover the whole of the District of which that tehsil forms a part. To begin with, work will be started in a block of hundred villages of tehsil and it will be expected that the neighbouring villages will also take a cue from them and start development work on their own initiative. Sir, it is a pity that the habit of dependence on the Government in every matter has become deeply-rooted and the people instead of thinking of 'what they are doing for themselves' always think of 'what the Government is doing for them'. I admit that every one of us is to blame for fostering this kind of mentality. Moreover, the sort of bitter and trenchant criticism that we used to hurl against the foreign Government in the heat of struggle against them is now being levelled against us. Nobody seems to realize that the present Government is composed of the elected representatives of the people who are sincerely desirous of promoting the welfare of the people and are making honest efforts towards that end.

I may also make it clear to the House that the allotment of community projects was made in accordance with the instructions of the Government of India. They had directed that these should first be allotted to those areas which were not quite undeveloped so as to ascertain what maximum progress could be achieved with the money invested within the shortest possible time. They were also of the view that the allotment of these projects to not quite undeveloped areas would result in rapid progress and create enthusiasm among the rural masses. It is in view of these considerations that such projects have been allotted to Jagadhri, Sonepat, Nilokheri, Faridabad, etc. Though I did not want to talk in terms of Divisions, yet it is a fact that the interests of Jullundur Division have not been ignored in this matter and community projects have been allotted to those tehsils in it which were already in some appreciable stage of development. It has been said about Jagadhri Tehsil that it is backward, but, Sir, the fact that quite a large part of it is highly developed should also not be lost sight of.

The Government of India have now asked us to recommend for the allotment of more blocks to such areas as are neither very backward nor advanced, i.e., those which are in a middling state of development. What they are aiming at is the achievement of better results with comparatively less effort and a rapid increase in agricultural production in a short period of time. While selecting these areas the fact whether consolidation work has been completed there or not has naturally to be taken into consideration. How can we recommend areas where this work has not been completed or is not likely to be taken in hand in the near future ? We have to make a recommendation for the allotment of six blocks though the actual number of blocks that will be allotted is a matter in which the final decision rests with the Government of India. I may, however, inform the House that the greater the success which attends the execution of these projects in a State, the greater the number of projects that may be allotted to it. Therefore, Sir, it is the duty of every one of us to try to achieve maximum progress and show the best results.

[Minister for Development]

Mr. Speaker, after all the hon. Members should not forget that the work of community development actually started on 2nd October 1952. All that was done prior to that date was paper work and talking. Preparations for the inauguration of the paractical work were not quite complete but we did not want to miss the birthday of the Father of the Nation and so on the auspicious birthday of that great man who played the most important part in the drama of the emancipation of our nation, this work was inaugurated.

Sir, whatever Shri Ram Kishan has stated about the non-payment of salaries to the teachers is correct. I admit that we cannot get rid of financial red-tapism. But the anxiety of the Government of India to see that the money allocated for community projects does not go waste just as the American money was wasted by Chiang Kai-shek Government, is really understandable. We have to apply for sanction for everything. All the schemes and plans are first examined by the Planning Commission ; and the Finance Ministry of the Government of India scrutinises them and then they have to undergo the close scrutiny of our own Finance Department.

We have no hesitation in saying that we have this difficulty. But the real thing is that we have to make those Community Projects a success. Everybody has praised for our strong arms, our brains and our enthusiasm for work. With these qualities, we can do whatever we like. But the difficulty is that the people of the State are under the influence of laziness, lack of initiative, carelessness and illiteracy. We have to banish all these evils and we have got the chance to do it through the Community Projects. This golden opportunity should not be missed. But do you think that, since there are these shortcomings, the work of making the Community Projects successful is to be done by the Punjab Government or by the Publicity Department or by the Bharat Sevak Samaj ? No. If this work is to be carried to a successful conclusion, it shall require effort on the part of every resident of the Punjab who possesses a tongue in his month, strength in his arms, brain in his head and love for his country in his heart. If he does not himself take the initiative, his representative organisations have to take the initiative to inspire and enthuse him and in this way, the good of the people has got to be achieved through their own efforts.

But the misfortune is that the political parties opposed to the Congress actually want in their heart of hearts that these schemes should not fructify. Their object is that the experiment of these Community Projects should fail. I have no hesitation in saying about the Communists brethren that their object is that poverty should go on increasing in the country so that they may get the opportunity of capturing power by raising the slogan of hunger. So far as the Akali Party is concerned, it lacks sense. It knows only this that it must condemn everything, good or bad, done by the Government. Besides this, there is the party of our Socialist brethren. They think that to abuse the Government is to do something constructive. They also think that perhaps this is the secret of the success of the Communists which they have achieved in the matter of wining some seats in some States. I am amazed when I find that even leaders like Shri Jai Parkash Narain, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and Shri Ashoka Mehta believe in abusing the Government and indulging in irresponsible criticism. When this is the condition of these political parties, the heavy responsibility of improving the economic condition of the country falls on the only one political party

and that political party is the Congress Party. (*Cheers.*) This responsibility is a legitimate one because the people do not regard the Congress as a political party but as a part of the country. Not only this. They regard it as the country itself or another name for the country. Thus the responsibility for raising up the country lies on this Congress Party which may be called the national party or the nation itself. If, therefore, the members of the Congress Party who have been returned here by the people, or other members of this organisation do not take it upon themselves to make this work a success, then you may take it that the country cannot make any progress economically. But if my brethren make up their mind to uplift the country in every case, nobody can stand before them. If a party of patriots, i.e. the Congress Party is in power and it possesses such a weapon as the Community Projects then if it does not spread its influence over all the State, who is to blame except the Members of the Assembly ? I know that the members have usually petty grievances and complaints of their own. But if they do not act enthusiastically on the programme of the organisation whose members they are, then success cannot be achieved. But I am confident that the members of the Congress Party are quite united in the matter of public service. I know that a number of my hon. Brethren will say that their work finds no appreciation in the press. That is quite true. Some of the newspapers have made it their duty to abuse the Congress and to condemn everything that it has done. But I believe that the desire to earn cheap popularity in the newspapers, is to show cowardice. If you cannot start a newspaper of your own, it does not matter. But it is a matter of deep regret that a party consisting of one hundred members which is running the administration of the State and has in its possession a weapon like the Community Projects to better the lot of the people, should fail to wield its influence on the people of the State. But I think the members of our Party do not shirk work. They are only feeling shy and are hesitant. It is true to some extent, that when a ruffian is faced with a gentleman, the latter fights shy of taking any step against him. But we have not to keep hesitating for long. We have not to let a scheme like the Community Projects go to dogs. It is a jewel ; it is a beautiful weapon with which we have to raise the country, to increase the food production, to improve the standard of living of the people and through which we have to raise ourselves to the level of England, America and Russia.

In this connection, Professor Mota Singh remarked that Russia had made a remarkable progress. That is true. But we should take into consideration the economic condition of that country at the time when in 1918, the Russian people wrested power from the hands of the Czar. Up till 1925 the Communist brethren of Russia did not know what to do. Then they had to hang hundreds of opponents to carry out the five-year plan that they had drawn. But just see the democracy on our side. Under it, you cannot gag the mouth of anybody. You cannot check the people who abuse the Government. I think the democracy in our country can be saved only with great courage. Under this democracy, the newspapers try to blackmail us by making wrong statements. Even the political parties try to coerce us by condemning our work or in other words, try to weigh down our spirits. If we ourselves think that we are bad, this condemnation would produce a depressing weakening effect on our minds. But if we think that what we or the Punjab Government are doing is good and is for the good of the public, then this destructive criticism would produce no adverse effect upon us. In that case, we will carry on our work in high spirits and nobody will be able to stand before us, with such a spirit it would no longer remain a difficult job to tackle the Community Projects.

[Minister for Development]

Then, my hon. Friend Shri Sethi had remarked that no provision was made in the Budget for setting up industries under the Community Project Scheme. But my hon. Friend Sardar Gurbanta Singh put forward a suggestion that there was no need for setting up industries under this scheme. I would like to tell my hon. Brethren that a sum of Rs. 2,01,700 has been provided for imparting training in tanning industry. Industry is not a thing which can be set up like the building of a house with bricks and mortar. Before the setting up of an industry, there is need for imparting training in that industry to the people. I avoid using the word industry because it is a misleading term and connotes big factories as described by Mr. Puri. We have to impart training to the people in those small-scale industries wherein they should be able to manufacture articles in their spare time by selling which they may be able to earn a better living. That is why we have made a provision of Rs. 2,01,700 for imparting training in leather crafts such as gut-making, shoe-making and treating and tanning of hides. In this way, we have laid the foundation for the future development of the industry in villages. It was pointed out that the zamindars of Rohtak are burying their dead animals as the Harijans do not co-operate with them. I do not know how far it is true but in case it is, I would request the hon. Members that they should take steps to bring about a compromise between the zamindars and the Harijans of that place so that the wealth of our country is not buried in the ground. In case the hon. Members do something, well and good, if not, we shall pass a law that nobody should bury the dead animals. But I must say that if no compromise is arrived at and some law is passed in this connection, the Harijans will stand to lose. Who knows the contractors of which Tehsil would take away the skins of the animals ! In these circumstances I would submit that a rapprochement be effected between the zamindars and the Harijans and the wealth of the country should not be allowed to go waste. Out of seventy-five lakh animals in our State, about seven and a half lakh die every year. The value of their flesh, skins and bones is in the neighbourhood of five crores of rupees. I would request that gentlemen like Sardar Gurbanta Singh, Chaudhri Sundar Singh and Shri Chand Ram should make all-out efforts to bring about a proper understanding between the Zamindars and the Harijans. In case they do not succeed in this task the Government will be forced to pass a law for this purpose. We cannot allow a sum of about five crores of rupees to go waste. What is desired is that the Harijans should continue to do this work as they are conversant with it. The Jats can't do it well. They are likely to spoil the skins by misuse of their weapons. But then nobody should have any hatred for this work. I would go to the extent of saying that even the M.L.A.s should take to it. There is nothing good or bad in a work, only thinking makes it so. I am prepared to do this work. I have no hatred for it. Why should we allow a large sum of about rupees five crores to be wasted ? At the moment we want huge amounts for the development of our State and we shall save every penny we can for the progress of our country. Now we have about three lakh buffaloes which are over three years of age and are capable of yielding milk. We may be having the same number of cows approximately. One is really surprised to see the state of affairs in countries like England, Switzerland and Holland. We require five crore maunds of milk if we wish to supply half a seer of milk to every individual of our population. And if we give half a chhatank of ghee to every person, we stand in need of about six crore maunds of milk. I have not taken the sweetmeats and other milk products required by us into account But then we have only seventy-five lakh animals including camels, etc. Under these conditions how could everybody get enough of milk and ghee.

in our country ? This is why we are forced to use vegetable ghee which injures our health. We have to import thousands of maunds of cotton seeds from abroad. I am really pained to talk of all this. We do not produce even sufficient oil for our consumption. We have to import large quantities of 'toria', 'taramira' and mustard oils. We have to get even oil-cake from abroad.

Mr. Sethi was good enough to remark that we were forgetful of development of industries in the State. I may tell him that we are doing and shall continue to do whatever we can for the development of our industries. We have an earnest desire that our State and the country should march on the road to progress. Shrimati Sita Devi had said that the women were not getting a fair deal. I ask her is there not dearth of properly qualified women in the State ? We cannot get properly qualified women if and when wanted. It is wrong to say that we do not care for them. We wish to safeguard the rights of women. But there is something strange and funny. Shrimati Sita Devi's views could have been appreciated if she were to refer to the spinning wheel or the weaving of sheets and durries. She should have known that at the moment cows were under discussion and not men and women. (*Laughter.*)

Now something about communications. I agree that we should spend larger amounts in this connection. The animals of the zamindars pull the carts on the kacha roads with very great difficulty. I believe that our country cannot advance till we construct countless good roads. In America and other western countries stress was at the very outset laid on communications. This is exactly what we should do in this country. The people of Kangra, Una and Naraingarh are facing very great difficulties in this connection. In these circumstances, I think that we should spend as much as we can on communications. The Government is alive to this necessity and would never grudge making large provisions for this purpose. So far as the schools are concerned, so many people, for example, the Arya Samajis, the Sikhs, the Jainis and the Sanatan Dharmis, etc., are prepared to spend on them but nobody except the Government has to shoulder the construction of roads. The secret of a country's prosperity lies in communications. If after paying off a debt of eighty-eight crores of rupees the State has to incur another similar debt, I think it is worthwhile to do so and spend the amount raised on the construction of roads. If our communications are good the commodities can very easily be taken from the village to the town and vice versa. Our people will become more civilised and the country will advance. So this provision of thirty-one lakhs of ruppees is not very considerable. I wish we had a bigger provision for this purpose. Mr. Speaker, my hon. Friend Shri Ram Kishan has remarked that large funds are being spent on the establishments of various departments. In this connection my submission is that I myself wish that less money should be spent on the maintenance of establishments but the difficulty is that the Administration cannot run smoothly without sufficient staff. Even in order to build a road we have to employ a large number of workers. Our estimate is that during the current year the sum of Rs. 1,10 lakhs is to be spent whereas we have spent only Rs. 1,38,000. I would submit, Sir, that they should not care for the friends who are not sincere. They should not consider the headlines of the newspapers as true.

Mr. Speaker : You should not doubt the honesty and integrity of the Press which is a responsible organisation.

Minister for Development : Sir, perhaps you do not read vernacular newspapers. They are rather reactionary than progressive but so far as the Hindustan Times and the Tribune are concerned their standard is of course very high. Just the other day I asked a politician friend that there was a need for a good vernacular paper in our State. His reply was that no good newspaper could be a success in our State. My submission is that it is the Press which raises as well as lowers the morale of a nation. I know one American Socialist leader who was the author of about 60 books. He once remarked that if all the daily newspapers of America were put under his control he could convert all Americans to Socialists. But in a country where some of vernacular newspapers are so objectionable that they are not decent enough to be read in family circles, would they be an instrument for uplifting the nation or weakening it ? The newspapers which we considered progressive in the beginning have in course of time been proved to be reactionary.

My hon. Friends are at liberty to quote the examples of Russia and China but the fact is that no Constitution of any country of the world can compare favourably with our Constitution. Our principles are far better than theirs and we would continue to act according to those principles. In our State an area of 1,30 lakh acres of land is under cultivation which includes land irrigated by canals and chos as well as land irrigated by other means. The total income of our State from agriculture is Rs. 1,51 crores which is not satisfactory. As has already been remarked by my hon. Friend, Shri Ram Kishen, the yield from our land is very low. In England the average yield of crops is 90 maunds per acre which is due to the fact that they make scientific analysis of the soil and use scientifically prepared manure to increase the productivity of the soil. But here in our country nobody cares to see whether the land is alkaline or acidic. Under the Community Projects we have to improve 7½ lakh acres of land. It would not be out of place to mention here that we have been able to carry out weeding operations successfully in 44½ thousand acres of land, and it has now become fit for cultivation. What I mean to submit is that we are earnestly trying to achieve our objective.

Next, Sir, I would submit that as many as 34,922 cattle were given prophylactic injections. Previously, people used to drive their cattle through a narrow street where a broken *chapni* was kept hanging and they felt satisfied that their cattle would remain immune from epidemics. In almost every village this method was adopted. Again, 43,400 cattle have been given injections to prevent the diseases of mouth, feet and smallpox. We quite realize the difficulty experienced by a zamindar if his buffaloes fall sick during the harvest days which are the days of taking milk and *kachi lassi*. We have, therefore, given injections to 31,500 cows to guard them against cow-pox. Sir, these are not bogus figures which I am placing before the House. We have maintained a register in every village in which such entries are made regularly and which can be checked by my hon. Friends if they so like. As a matter of fact we want to train every person to inject his own cattle himself. The medicines are so cheap that 10 to 15 cattle can be injected with medicine costing one pice. I would appeal to the hon. Members of the Congress Party that they should give their full co-operation to the Government in this regard because the ruralites would not question Sardar Gopal Singh Khalsa or Chhina Sahib but they would certainly question my sister Sita Devi, if steps are not taken by the Government to better their lot.

Sir, one of my hon. Friends has objected that we are getting *begar* from the people. In this connection I would like to state that Mr. Brayne's days have passed and we want to do away with the old practices. This is India

and not China. My hon. Friends while quoting the examples of China conveniently forget that if in China they had criticised the Government in regard to the Community Projects Scheme and raised the objection that *begar* was taken from the people they would have been taught an object lesson. They should thank this democratic Government which has been established in our country in keeping with our culture and civilization otherwise we are well aware of the conditions that prevail in Russia and China. Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that whereas the hon. Members sitting on the Opposition Benches were born in India, have Indian parents and have been taking milk of Indian buffaloes, they still pay their compliments to Russia and China. If a diplomat like Mrs. Pandit had admired the progress made by China after her visit to that country it was an act of diplomay on her part.

So, Sir, my submission is that they must go there, enjoy the trip and also make an appraisal of the real conditions obtaining there and then tell the House the truth. I would ask my hon. Friend Shri Ram Kishen to go and work at the Community Projects, if he is really desirous of promoting the welfare of the people, and set an example for others.

I may now inform the House about the work that has so far been done at the sites of these projects. So far, 2,077 acres of land hvae been reclaimed and twenty thousand acres of land have been cleared off of all noxious weeds such as Pohli. After all, Sir, how much land can be reclaimed with centuries old and antiquated agricultural implements such as the plough used by our peasants which has a blade just three inches long. Then, may I know whose fault it is if our country has a population of 35 crores and has to import lakhs of tons of foodgrains from other countries to feed it ?

I may also tell the House that the officers detailed on these projects are working very honestly and conscientiously. But how I wish each of the hon. Members of this House were to persuade five men from his constituency to volunteer themselves for this work. In that case there would be no reason why this scheme should not prove a roaring success. We cannot and should not depend wholly upon the help of the Government of India. In the first year, they had no doubt allocated a sum of Rs. 65 lakhs to our State, but this year they have reduced this grant to Rs. 45 lakhs and it is quite likely that next year we may not be able to get from them for this purpose even a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs. This is why we cannot start the execution of this scheme simultaneously in all the tehsils and all the districts. Professor Mota Singh has cited the example of Russia but ignored the vital difference in Russian set-up and ours. It is not for nothing that we are spending huge sum of money on legislatures. Russians can do without legislatures, our conditions and traditions are different from theirs ; we cannot leave the path that we are treading to follow them nor can we adopt their system and institutions.

My submission to my hon. Friends who are members of the Congress Assembly party is : It is our first and foremost duty to try to make the schemes initiated by the Central Government successful. I feel it is also our duty not to let the Harijan brethren remain backward. Responsibility for all this rests upon our political party and it is time we realized it knowing that no other party is going to co-operate with us. We have to accomplish this task by co-operating with each other in a common endeavour. The Government of India has so far provided a sum of Rs. 85 lakhs for this purpose and God knows what help they will give us in the future. But let us make a firm, unshakable resolve to see this work through, come what may. We shall give loans to the peasants for sinking of wells and for other

[Minister for Development]
purposes also as far as possible, no matter if our Budget continues to be a deficit one for a few more years. Afterwards, when the condition of the people improve, we shall devise ways and means to balance it. We are proud of the fact that there is nothing that an Assembly, of which an embodiment of self-sacrifice like yourself is the Speaker, cannot achieve.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. one lac.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1,000.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be redcued by Rs. 101.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs 85,01,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1953-54 in respect of Community Development Projects.

The motion was carried.

(The House then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Thursday the 19th March, 1953)

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

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Punjab Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 15th April, 1953.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE PUNJAB CIVIL SECRETARIAT.

***1800. Shri Ram Parkash :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state the total number of Superintendents in the Punjab Civil Secretariat at present together with the number of Harijans amongst them ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : 27 ; none of them is a Harijan.

SECRETARIES, UNDER-SECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES IN THE PUNJAB CIVIL SECRETARIAT.

***1801. Shri Ram Parkash :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Secretaries, Under-Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries in the Punjab Civil Secretariat at present ;

(b) the number of vacancies of each category that fell vacant since the 16th April, 1952, together with the number of such vacancies filled by Harijans ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

	Secretaries	Under Secretaries	Assistant Secretaries.
(a)	4	6	3

	Secretaries	Under Secretaries.	Assistant Secretaries.
(b)	2	3	Nil

One of the posts of Under-Secretaries has been filled by a Harijan Officer.

Shri Ram Parkash : As stated by the hon. Chief Minister one of the posts of Under-Secretaries to the Government is held by a Harijan. May I know if the Government is trying to abolish that particular post ?

Chief Minister : This supplementary question does not arise out of the main question.

STARTING OF POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL AT KUNJPURA, DISTRICT KARNAL.

***1832. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any police training school has been started in Village Kunjpura, District Karnal ; if so, the date when it was started ;

[Shri Ram Kishan]

(b) the conditions and rules of admission in the said school ;

(c) the amount so far incurred by the Government for the running of the above school ;

(d) the reasons for starting this new police training school and the progress made so far in this connection ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) Yes ; from 13th April 1950.

(b) Young boys entering their teens are eligible for admission and preference is given to those whose fathers are regular subscribers to the Police Welfare Fund.

(c) No separate funds have been allotted by the Government for this institution.

(d) The object is to train young boys to become ideal police men. The School was started with two classes only but there are now 4 classes.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government has given its approval for the expenditure which is being incurred on this school ?

Chief Minister : As already submitted by me the Government has allotted no separate funds for this school. The whole expenditure on running the school is being met from the Welfare Fund.

Shri Ram Kishan : What part of the expenditure is met from the Government funds ?

Chief Minister : The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to part (c) of the reply given by me.

WORK CENTRES FOR DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE STATE.

***1833. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the names and places of the work centres now functioning in the State for the benefit of displaced persons ;

(b) the number of persons employed therein and the progress report of the work in each centre ;

(c) the profit and loss of each work centre during the years 1951 and 1952, respectively ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) and (b) At present fifteen work centres are functioning in the State at various places. Statement A showing the names, places and the number of persons employed therein is enclosed. Brief notes on the working of each centre are given below :—

(c) Statement B containing figures of profit and loss is enclosed.

Shoe and Leather Work Centre, Jullundur. Since its very inception the centre is catering to the needs of the Punjab Police Department and has only recently completed and supplied 3,000 Ankle Boots to the said Department against an order placed through the Store Purchase Department, Jullundur. The Police Department placed a further order for 2,000 pairs of Ankle Boots which is nearing completion. The Work Centre holds a rate contract for the supply of canvass and leather dak bags orders for which are being received regularly from various Government Departments. Negotiations for obtaining orders from the Director-General Supplies and Disposals, New Delhi, for the supply of ankle boots to Defence Department are in progress.

Hosiery Work Centre, Ludhiana. The workers employed in the Centre have attained sufficient skill and experience and the centre has successfully supplied various types of hosiery goods such as woollen socks, stockings, jerseys, gloves, cotton vests, etc. to different Government Departments and private indentors. It has only recently completed a huge Police order for the supply of socks and stocking gloves, jerseys, hose tops, etc. and is at present busy with the manufacture of Cotton Vests to be supplied to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay. A fresh order for the supply of 10,150 pairs of Olive green socks has also been received from Deputy Director of Cottage Industries, Kanpur. To provide continuous work to the workers to enable them to earn their livelihood, Government of India have been approached to place a part order for the supply of socks to the Defence Services. The Centre is running on self-sufficient lines and has shown good profits since its very start.

Dyeing and Calico Printing Work Centre, Ludhiana. This centre usually remains busy in the supply of dyed and printed cloth to the various local customers. A big order for the supply of turbans and safa bands to the Police Department is in hand and the same will be completed as soon as the requisite cloth is received from the Textile Commissioner, Bombay. The centre is showing profits and is catering to the needs of the local market.

Utensil-making Work Centre, Abdullapur. The Centre was hit hard by the general and sudden slump in the market which started in the month of December, 1951. The manufacture of brass and aluminium utensils has been stopped. The Centre is expected to take up production of milk measures shortly if the scheme which is under scrutiny ensures reasonable profits. The Centre is, however, chiefly engaged in the galvanizing work procured from the Engineering Work Centres at Panipat and Abdullapur and is running on self-sufficient basis.

Plywood and Wood Work Centre, Abdullapur. The Centre is receiving continuous orders from Government Departments and institutions for the supply of furniture for which it holds a rate contract and the workers employed therein remain fully occupied with the amount of work thus procured. Goods worth Rs Two and half lacs have been supplied to the various indentors during the financial year just closed. The Centre is functioning on profitable basis. The Centre has also supplied plywood sheets and veneers to firms in Calcutta.

Tent-making Work Centre, Panipat This Centre has all along been supplying tents of various specifications to the Government Institutions and Departments to their entire satisfaction and has been showing profits from the very beginning. At present it is busy in the execution of orders placed by the Police and

[Minister for Finance]
Irrigation Departments, Principal, Engineering School, Nilokheri, Deputy Commissioner Jullundur and S.D.O., Dalhousie Sub-Division.

Munj Matting Work Centres, Panipat. The Centre is running on profitable lines, and supplies munj mats to educational institutes of the State. It is providing gainful employment to about 30 widows of the refugee camp at Panipat.

Pottery Work Centre, Sonepat. The Centre has been sustaining losses from the very beginning but since the erection of the 14′ dia. kiln and installation of new machinery the production of the Centre has stepped up nearly four times and the quality of the goods has also greatly improved. The losses so far incurred are expected to be recouped in about a year's time.

Engineering Work Centres at Panipat, Abdullapur and Rohtak. With the machinery installed in the three Engineering Work Centres, these are capable of executing huge orders connected with the engineering trades. The Centres at Panipat and Abdullapur have satisfactorily manufactured and supplied droppers, anticlimbing devices, suspension hangers and U. Bolts etc. to the Electricity Department during 1952 as a result of which further orders for the supply of these stores have been received from the said Department. Arms racks have been supplied to the Police Department against orders placed through the Controller of Stores, Punjab. Manhole Covers are being manufactured for Chandigarh Capital Administration at these Centres. The Rohtak Centre is executing orders for the supply of girder crossing, distances marks, soaking tanks, C. I. Castings, buckets etc. Efforts are being made to procure continuous work for all the three Centres.

Cotton Weaving Work Centres at Panipat, Rohtak and Hissar. These Centres have particularly suffered a great set-back because of the slump in general trade since December, 1951. The demand of handloom cloth in the market has gone down considerably and large stocks have accumulated in all the three Centres. Strenuous efforts are, however, being made to dispose of the stocks thus accumulated through specially appointed Sales Agents. These Centres have only recently manufactured the cloth required for the liveries of Village Chowkidars. A part order for the supply of barrack blankets to the Director-General, Supplies and Disposals, New Delhi, is expected to be obtained through the Controller of Wool Spinning and Weaving Centres. This order, if received, will provide continuous work to these Centres for about six months. The Centres are running on nominal profits.

Button-making Work Centre, Panipat. The Centre was not running on economic lines and it is being sold as a running concern to Shri H.L. Jain of Delhi.

STATEMENT "A"

Serial No.	Name of Centre	Number of workers on roll at the end of February, 1953.
1	2	3
1	Shoe and Leather Goods Work Centre, Jullundur ..	34
2	Hosiery Work Centre, Ludhiana ..	91
3	Dyeing and Calico Printing Work Centre, Ludhiana ..	12

Serial No.	Name	Number of workers on roll at the end of February 1953
4	Utensil-making Work Centre, Abdullapur ..	19
5	Metallic Fitting Work Centre, Abdullapur ..	44
6	Plywood and Wood Work Centre, Abdullapur ..	76
7	Button-making Work Centre, Panipat ..	2 since sold to a private firm
8	Cotton and Wool Weaving Work Centre, Panipat ..	81
9	General Engineering and Foundry Work Centre, Panipat ..	92
10	Tent Making Work Centre, Panipat ..	39
11	Munj Mat Work Centre, Panipat ..	11
12	Pottery Work Centre, Sonepat ..	47
13	Agricultural Implement Work Centre, Rohtak ..	65
14	Cotton Weaving Work Centre, Rohtak ..	25
15	Cotton Weaving Work Centre, Hissar ..	19
	Total ..	657

STATEMENT 'B'

Serial No.	Name of Work Centre	*From the commencement of the Centres up to 31st December 1951*		*From the commencement of the Centres up to 31st December 1952.*	
		Profit	Loss	Profit	Loss
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
1	Shoe and Leather Goods Work Centre, Jullundur ..	12,708	..	18,136	..
2	Hosiery Work Centre Ludhiana	1,19,944	..	1,33,502	
3	Dyeing and Calico Printing Work Centre, Ludhiana ..	11,803	..	23,389	..
4	Metallic Fittings Work Centre, Abdullapur ..	19,524	..	7,657	..
5	Plywood and Wood Work Centre Abdullapur ..	6,003	..	8,219	..

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Serial No.	Name of work Centre	*Form the commencement of the Centes up to 31st December 1951*		*From the commencement of the Centers np to 31st December 1952*	
		Profit	Loss	Profit	Loss
1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Utensil-making Work Centre, Abudllapur ..	10,258	..	26,172	..
7	General Engineering and Foundry Work Centre, Panipat ..	45,029	..	28,454	..
8	Cotton and Wool Weaving Work Centre, Panipat ..	47,169	..	17,831	..
9	Tent-making Work Centre, Panipat ..	20,279	..	33,528	..
10	Munj Matting Work Centre, Panipat ..	3,342	..	2,892	..
11	Button-making Work Centre, Panipat ..	..	7,630	..	34,602
12	Pottery Work Centre, Sonepat ..	..	21,798	..	55,892
13	Agricultural Implements Work Centre, Rohtak ..	..	5,994	6,187	..
14	Cotton Weaving Work Centre, Rohtak ..	1,914	..	250	..
15	Cotton Weaving Work Centre, Hissar ..	5,149	..	1,368	..

Shri Ram Kishan : In the statement furnished by the hon. Minister item No. 7 relates to the Button-making Work Centre, Panipat. Only two employees are running that Centre. The figures of loss suffered by the Centre show that while for the year 1951 it amounted to Rs 7,630, during the year 1952, it rose to Rs 34,602. What was the cause of such a heavy loss ?

Minister : My hon. Friend should know that there was a steep fall in the prices of buttons in the year 1952. As a stock of buttons with the Centre in question was very huge a heavy loss was caused in that year.

Shri Ram Kishan : Pottery Work Centre, Sonepat, has also been mentioned in the statement. The loss suffered by it during the years 1951 and 1952 has been stated to be Rs 30,796 and Rs 52,892, respectively. What was the cause of these losses ?

Minister : The factors responsible for these losses were the same as have been stated by me with regard to the losses at the Button-making Centre. The general trade slump commenced from February-March, 1952 and the prices went on falling resulting in heavy losses. In the case of other Centres it would be noticed that profits for the year 1952 were comparatively low.

Shri Ram Kishan : Was some machinery for the Works Centres imported from other places ?

Minister : This supplementary does not arise out of the main question but I would like to add for the information of the hon. Member that most of the machinery was obtained from the Government of India's surplus stores. Some of it may be have been imported from other places.

Shri Ram Kishan : Was the machinery imported from Calcutta and Bihar utilized at the Works Centres ?

Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall be able to collect all the information for him.

DECONTROL OF FOODGRAINS IN THE STATE.

***1834. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Minister for Local Government be pleased to state whether there has been any correspondence or negotiations between the Union Government and the State Government regarding the decontrol of foodgrains in the State ; if so, with what results ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Yes.

Millets and coarse grains were decontrolled by Government of India within all the States, subject to the observation of price control only. Exports of these grains outside the State is regulated by the State Governments. Control on wheat and Rice, however, continues.

Shri Ram Kishan : In view of the good harvest this year is the Government prepared to remove controls on food ?

Minister : This question is examined from time to time. The conditions at present are not such as may warrant the removal of controls. The production of food in the Punjab depends largely on the rains. If we do not get timely rain, our self-sufficiency in food disappears. According to our estimates the production of food this year will not be more but less than that in previous years. For this reason we do not propose to take any risk but shall like to introduce gradual decontrol. This is our policy in respect of this matter.

OPENING OF NEW HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

***1848. Shri Kasturi Lal Goel :** Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of New High Schools that are intended to be opened by the Government in the State during the current year ;

(b) the main considerations while making the selection of a place for the opening of a new school ;

(c) whether the Government intends opening High Schools in Asandh area; if so, when?

Shri Jagat Narain: (a) 6 schools (including 4 Government Middle Schools which are being raised to High Standard).

(b) The following are the main considerations for opening of a High School at a particular place :

(1) that the need of the place for a school is genuine ;

[Minister for Education]

(2) that sufficient number of primary and middle schools exist at or round about, the place which would serve as feeders to the proposed school ;

(3) that a suitable building is available for housing the school.

(c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government. However, the request of the people of the area will be considered on merit if and when received.

Sardar Wazir Singh : Will the Government be prepared to open schools at places where the people are prepared to give land and fulfil other conditions ?

Minister : If our finances permit, we will certainly be prepared to do so.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUNJAB WEIGHTS AND MEASURES COMMITTEE

***1889. Maulvi Abdul Ghani Dar:** Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the details of the recommendations made by the Weights and Measures Committee appointed by the Government together with the action, if any, so far taken by the Government thereon ; if not, the time by which the Government proposes to take any action in the matter ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : A statement showing recommendations of the Committee and the action taken by Government thereon is given below.

	Recommendations of Committee.	*Action taken by Government*
1.	Appointment of non-offiicial Committees consisting of not more than five members in all municipal areas of the State to maintain a liaison between the public and the inspectorates.	Not accepted for administrative reasons.
2.	Fixation of ceiling price of unpolished yard measure at Re. 1.	Accepted.
3.	Supply of cheaper weights to bullion merchants by introducing bullion weights with or without adjusting holes ad lead plugging. For the weighment of silver, use of cast iron weights of 100 tolas and above may be allowed.	(a) Bullion dealers have been allowed the use of cast iron weights of the capacities of 200 tolas and above for the weighment of silver only for a period: of one year from the date of publication of the notification to this effect in the first instance.
		(b) Since periodical adjustment will not be possible in case the system of lead plugging is abolished, this recommendation has not been accepted.
4.	Abolition of registration system of repairers and allowing public to get their weights and measures repaired from anywhere they like.	Accepted. Necessary amendments in the rules are being made.

Recommendations of Committees	Action taken by Government
5. The period of reverification and stamping of weights and measures be extended to once in three years instead of once in two years.	Not accepted.
6. Fixation of important business centres in bigger towns like Ambala, Ludhiana, Jullundur, Amritsar, etc., where traders should get t eir weights, etc. stamped.	Accepted.
7. Prices of milk measures should be fixed at a reasonable level on the basis of weight of material *plus* stamping fees, incidental charges and sales-tax being extra. Such prices for manufacturers as well as dealers should be fixed.	Accepted.
8. Reduction of the price of a set of four brass milk measures from Rs 12-7-6 to Rs 9-15-0. Ceiling prices of alluminium milk measures may also be suitably fixed.	Accepted.
9. Registered Association should be allowed to take Dealers Licences on "Co-operative and no-profit no loss" basis, as and when applied for.	Accepted.
10. Grant of exemption from the provisions of Punjab Weights and Measures Act to weigh men in mandis, hawkers and traders in rural areas from keeping the iron beam scales of capacity not exceeding five seers of prescribed standard.	Director of Industries has been directe to suitably improve the iron beam scales.
11. Introduction of bigger steel stamps for stamping cost iron weights without lead plugging.	Not accepted, in view of the practical difficulties involved.
12. Marking of steel yards in girhas on one side and in inches on the other side.	There seems to be no necesssity in changing the present system of measurements.
13. Amalgamation of the staff under the Punjab Weights and Measures Act and the Punjab Trade Employees Act for the sake of economy in expenditure, etc.	Matter has been taken up with the Labour Department separately.
14. Starting of a manufacturing workshop by Government for the manufacture of weights, measures, weighing and measuring instruments. from where supplies to the public may be made	A scheme is being evolved for the purpose.

Shri Ram Kishan : May I know why about six or seven recommendations of the Weights and Measures Committee have not been accepted by the Government ?

Minister : I think that there are hardly two or three recommendations

[Minister for Finance]

which have not been accepted. The reasons for non-acceptance of these recommendations are given in the statement attached.

Shri Ram Kishan : There is no mention in the statement as to why the recommendations have not been accepted by the Government.

Adjournment motion Re. Indiscriminate beating of Innocent persons of Village Nanonangal

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) : Sir, I beg to ask for leave to make a motion for an adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the indiscriminate beating of innocent persons of Village Nanonangal, District Gurdaspur, by the Police on 14th April 1953.

Mr. Speaker : Before I give my ruling, I would like to know from the hon. Member as to what his source of information regarding this incident is?

Sardar Harkishen Singh Surjit : Sir, I have received a telegram from the President of the Kisan Sabha to that effect.

Mr. Speaker : But can the hon. Member prove that the information given in that telegram is correct ?

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit : Sir, some of the inhabitants of that village, who have been wounded as a result of the indiscriminate beatings by the Police, have come here to explain their grievances.

Mr. Speaker : Has the hon. Member got any authentic document to substantiate his information ?

Sardar Harkishen Singh Surjit : No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Has the Chief Minister got any information in this connection ?

Chief Minister : No Sir, the Government has not got any information.

Mr. Speaker : I think no useful purpose will be served by discussing this adjournment motion because the Chief Minister, who has to answer the criticism, says that he is not in possession of the facts of the case. Secondly, we are not certain that the information given in the telegram is correct. I, therefore, declare this notice out of order.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut : On a point of information, Sir. I would like to seek clarification on the point whether any matter of public importance can be discussed on the floor of the House even if the hon. Chief Mimnister has no information about it.

Mr. Speaker : In case any hon. Member has definite information with him that the Police acted in a high-handed manner then such a matter can be discussed here.

Chief Minister : I have asked for the information. As soon as I got the knowledge of this adjournment motion I asked the Home Secretary to immeddiately contact the local authorities in this connection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY RE. CERTAIN BILLS RECEIVED FROM THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Mr. Speaker: Now the Secretary will make an announcement.

Secretary : In pursuance of Rule 2(ii) of the Punjab State Legislature (Communications) Rules, 1952, I have to inform the House that the Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) (Amendment) Bill, 1953, passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 7th April, 1953 and transmitted to the Punjab Legislative Council on the same day, and the Punjab Urban Immoveable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1953, and the East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 1953, passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 8th April, 1953, and transmitted to the Punjab Legislative Council on the 9th April, 1953, have been agreed to by the said Council with out any amendment on the 14th April, 1953.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh) : Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Appropriation Accounts of the Government of Punjab for the year 1950-51 and the Audit Report, 1952, as required by Article 151(2) of the Constitution.

Minister for Finance (Sardar Ujjal Singh) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House copies of letters exchanged between the Reserve Bank of India and the Punjab Government relating to the changes in the principal and subsidiary agreements already executed between the Reserve Bank of India and the State Government as required by Sub-section (4) of Section 21 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (PRESENTATION)

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal (Ballabgarh) : Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts of the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the Appropriation accounts for the year 1948-49 and 1949-50.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES (PRESENTATION)

Shri Som Datta Bahri (Simla) : I beg to present the Report of the Committee on Estimates of the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the Budget estimates for the year 1952-53.

THE PUNJAB EXTINGUISHMENT OF JAGIRS BILL (RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSION)

Mr. Speaker : Shri Wadhawa Ram was on his legs, when the House adjourned yesterday. I call upon him to continue his speech.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, yesterday I was speaking about jagirdars when the House rose for the day. I told you how and with what object the Britishers had created this class. Yesterday, an hon. Member

[Shri Wadhawa Ram]
had made an attempt to justify the support given by the Punjabis to the British in 1857 and he had to resort to distortion of facts to do this. His opinion in this matter is totally erroneous. The fact is that barring a few princes and potentates the people of the Punjab had one and all fought against the British in that fateful year of 1857. In this connection, Sir, I had told the House how in the district of Montgomery, Ahmed Khan Gharal had given the people a lead and had fought valiantly against the British and how he was got assasinated by the guru of the Bedis, who was a wicked and cunning man in the guise of a saint.

Ahmed Khan's head was presented by that guru to Mr. Berkeley and in return for this service the latter was granted a jagir of one thousand acres. Ahmed Khan's murder was later on avenged by the people when they assasinated Berkeley. Sir, what I mean to say is that barring a few black sheep who were rotten to the core, the people as a whole had acted in opposition to the Britishers. Among those black sheep were our friends the jagirdars.

Sir, I need hardly repeat the atrocities perpetrated by the Jagirdars on the Congress Jathas which were sent to Peshawar to protest against the uncalled for firing made there, because they are well-known to you. The fact of the matter is that these people owe their jagirs to their misdeeds, such as inhuman atrocities on patriots, and lynching of the children of the soil. In these Jathas, ruralites like ourselves had taken part and not the town biggies and all the killing that took place was done at the instance of the Jagirdars. These Jagirdars were responsible for inciting the peasants against the Congressmen by telling them that the latter wanted the rates of wheat to fall still further. At that time, the price of wheat was already Rs 1-8-0 to Rs 2-0-0 a maund. By misleading the peasants in this manner, the Jagirdars succeeded in having the Congressmen assaulted, insulted, manhandled and subjected to various indignities. This sort of treatment was meted out not only to those taking part in national movements but also to those who took part in the Gurdwara movement. And all this the Jagirdars did to get reward in the form of jagirs. During the Gurdwara movement, the Bedis of Montgomery District who owned all the villages spread over an area of 15 square miles, had the water of all the wells poisoned so that the persons in the Jathas that went there might die of thirst. Had the people of Village Chhina not come to their rescue, all the Jathas would have perished. In this way the Jagirdars by their traitorous activities tried to harm the Gurdwara movement also.

Now, Sir, may I in brief refer to the tactics employed by the Jagirdars to crush the kisan movements. At their instance, village boys were made to swallow flies to cause vomiting with a view to ascertaining if they had eaten any dates fallen from the trees belonging to them. Fines were imposed and their property confiscated if it was proved that those boys had eaten the dates. These are not the only atrocities perpetrated by the Jagirdars on the village boys. But I will stop here.

Now, Sir, I wish to submit a few words about what was said in regard to the gurus yesterday. If gurus were really opposed to all alien governments, how is it that they managed to get Jagirs.

Mr. Speaker : Please don't discuss the gurus. You have no business to do so.

Shri Wadhawa Ram : May I ask my hon. Friends as to who are in the enjoyment of Jagirs of 40 thousand acres of land ?

Sardar Khem Singh (Amritsar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I congratulate the Government most heartily on bringing forward this Bill. Who is not aware of the atrocities perpetrated on the people by the Jagirdars and the traitorous activities indulged in by them to please their masters—the Britishers ? By allying themselves with the British, they were responsible for the annexation of the Punjab and the misery that followed in its wake and the injustices that were done to the Hindus and the Sikhs. The fact of the matter is that these persons were the touts and minions of the Britishers and never let slip any opportunity of harming the interest of the nation for the sake of rewards. Not only this. These people used to take begar from ' low-caste ' persons and suppress them in other ways also. I congratulate the Government once again on bringing forth this piece of legislation. Jagirdars can have no place in a democratic set-up.

Shri Daulat Ram Sharma (Hamirpur) (*Hindi*) : Sir, in my opinion this Bill should have been brought before the House much earlier. Still, I congratulate the Government on bringing it at last. Perpetuation of this last vestige of feudalism in this democratic set-up would be nothing short of an anomaly, an anachronism. The British Government had created this class on the principle of statecraft enunciated by the Italian politician Machiavelli, namely, that if you want to keep a country under subjugation, you must create in it a class of people who is wholly dependent upon you and who owes every thing to you. Acting on this principle, the British Government had granted land to some persons and revenue assignments to others under the name of Jagirs. This class can serve no useful purpose in the present democratic set-up. There is no reason why a considerable portion of land revenue should go into private pockets. Jagirs must be extinguished especially because these were granted by the British Government to those persons who rendered it meritorious services in the suppression of national upsurge. As a matter of fact, these should have been extinguished soon after the advent of independence.

Shri Daulat Ram (Kaithal) : Sir, today is the happiest and a red letter day in the history of the Punjab when one of the choicest measures, if I may say so, has been brought forward by the Government. It will have a far-reaching effect on the economy of the State. I think that this Bill strikes at the very root of the poverty of the people and sounds a death-knell to the last vestige of feudalism. On the one hand, if this measure will prove instrumental in levelling down the high-ups, whom it will be no exaggeration to call parasites on the society, it will, on the other, go a long way in levelling up the poor. I must say that this Bill, when enacted, will surely add to the potential strength of the poor classes of the State. It is not so much in the material gain that the poor people will get, as in the healthy change of psychology that will come over them. I think the amount that will accrue to the Exchequer as a result of the extinguishment of jagirs, will at the most be to the tune of rupees 15 to 16 lakhs, and this amount can be usefully utilized for ameliorating the condition of the poor. In other words, indirectly this money will go into the pockets of the poor people. Then, Sir, this Bill generally brings a sigh of relief to the people in that the parasites on the society are going to be relieved of their ill-gotten jagirs very soon. As a matter of fact this measure is the crying need of the hour, because our economy, mixed as it is, needs a social change, which is being provided by it so nicely. I think it will go a long way in raising the moral strength of the poor and enable the Government to utilize the jagirs of all kinds for some better purpose.

Shri Daulat Ram]

The second thing which I want to tell the House is that it is a very good step towards doing social justice to Society. Our Society, as it stands at present, requires a very drastic change in its set-up. This measure would certainly bring about a very nice and a wholesome change. This would mean laying the foundation for the abolition of disparity of wealth among different classes of people, particularly the " haves " and " have nots ". I am of the opinion that this Bill would prove a fore-runner in the chain of measures which would surely lead us towards the abolition of disparity of wealth in the urban areas. So far the Government has been paying its undivided attention towards the abolition of disparity of wealth in the rural areas but I feel that no Society can go ahead in a homogeneous way if one part is neglected at the cost of the other. This Bill, as I have already stated, will prove a very good forerunner to several such measures for the removal of disparity in the towns' wealth—I mean the urban wealth. So this measure, I must say, is a sort of death-knell for those people who are living and ejoying a very luxurious life. They must know that the Government is determined to denude them of the enormous wealth which they had got by treacherous acts and which they have been enjoying for the last century. The last thing which I want to tell is this. This Bill will, to some extent, extinguish the contrast that exists between the dazzling riches and loathsome destitution. This Bill will release and liberate a huge fund of energy for the poor people to do work because these are the days when we want that everybody should do voluntary work. As a result of this measure, these people will feel that they are now being attended to very carefully by the Government. These people must now come forward to join in the voluntary work in a maximum measure and promote those schemes which we are planning to initiate. In the end, I would say that this Bill is meant for the upliftment of the poor people and it will surely go a long way to ameliorate their condition. With these words, I support this Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Extinguishment of Jagirs Bill, 1953, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

1. **Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, Development Minister**
2. **Sardar Mohan Singh, M.L.A.**
3. **Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon, M.L.A., Deputy Speaker**
4. **Captain Ranjit Singh, M.L.A.**
5. **Shrimati Shanno Devi, M.L.A.**
6. **Sardar Partap Singh (Ratta Khera), M.L.A.**
7. **Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit, M.L.A.**
8. **Sardar Wazir Singh, M.L.A.**
9. **Shri Sri Chand, M.L.A.**

With a direction to report by the 31st of May, 1953.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Extinguishment of Jagirs Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSES (2) AND (3)

Sardar Partap Singh (Mallanwala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That after sub clause (3), the following sub-clause be added —

"(4) It shall deem to have effect from 15th August, 1947, and all grants of money made or affirmed, and the incomes of jagir lands, after this date shall have to be refunded to the Government".

Sir, I feel greatly satisfied over this Bill which has been brought forth by the Government to abolish Jagirs. In fact, the Government has already delayed the introduction of this bill. It should have been passed soon after the advent of independence. So far as I know, the Government could not bring forth this bill before now because there were certain constitutional difficulties in its way. Now that constitutional difficulties have been overcome, the Government has not delayed the introduction of this measure. This shows that the Government wanted to pass it as soon as possible. However, this delay which was caused due to some constitutional difficulties, is met by my amendment.

We are very well aware of this fact that the Jagirdars received very big amounts during the British regime since the Government exchequer was under the control of the Britishers and this thing was beyond our control. But with the achievment of independence, we have got full power over the exchequer. So why should the hard earned income of the poor peasants and the general public which comes into the exchequer in the shape of land revenue and other taxes, go into the pockets of these Jagirdars so that they might indulge in luxuries without doing anything useful. These Jagirdars are the traitors who gave all possible help to the foreign imperialists in order to keep our country in bondage. There is no reason why they should continue to receive the Jagir-money out of the State exchequer even after the advent of independence in the country. My amendment goes a little further, and it is based on a principle. Just as this principle was accepted in the case of the Tenancy Act that it would be deemed to have come into force with effect from the 15th August, 1947, on the basis of the same principle my amendment demands that this bill should also be deemed to have come into force from the 15th August 1947 and the Jagirdars should refund to the Government the Jagir-money received by them since that date. It is a very reasonable demand. This amendment has not been brought forth under the influence of any feeling of revenge, nor is any fine being imposed on the Jagirdars through it. It is a reasonable demand and justice requires that they should return whatever money they have received from Jagirs after the advent of independence. I believe that, had there been such traitors as these Jagirdars in any other free country, they would have been severely punished and their properties would have been confiscated. But we are not causing any harm to them. We are only asking them, through this amendment, to return the money which was Government money and which should have come into the Government exchequer. I believe that if the Government shows any leniency, such traitors would continue to come into being. I would, therefore, submit that the Government should accept

[Sardar Partap Singh]
this amendment of mine. The money which will be realised in this way, can be used for the betterment of the poor people. Moreover the policy of the administration of the Government will also become quite clear, namely, that it would never in any case allow traitors to make their appearance in the country.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That after sub-clause (3), the following sub-clause be added—

"(4) It shall deem to have effect from 15th August 1947, and all grants of money made or affirmed, and the incomes of jagir lands, after this date shall have to be refunded to the Government.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That after sub-clause(3), the following sub-clause be added—

"(4) It shall deem to have effect from 15th August, 1947, and all grants of money made or affirmed, and the incomes of jagir lands after this date shall have to be refundded to the Government."

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-Clauses (2) and (3) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker: Now the House will consider Clause 2. I have received many amendments to it. First of all, I call upon Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina to move his amendment.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) **:** Sir, I beg to move—

That at the end of part (a) of the Clause, the following words be added—

"and including mutiny pensions".

Sir, a very large number of Jagirs was granted for services rendered to the British Government during the war of independence miscalled the mutiny. I have fears lest these Jagirs should be included in the Military Jagirs and this is why I have moved this amendment. We should not have any sympathy for those who had been helping the British imperialism. But the pity of it is that such people get the Congress tickets.

Mr. Speaker : Kindly speak on the pension.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Mr. Speaker, I was submitting that we should not have any soft corner for such people. The family of Sardar Sunder Singh Majitha........

Mr. Speaker: I would request the hon. Member not to discuss the conduct of a person who is dead.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina: Mr. Speaker, I was submitting that some families which had helped the British Government are in receipt of pensions to-day. They are owners of large areas of land in U.P., have set up mills and are using their wealth for political ends. They even manage to get tickets of a big political organisation with their money. I submit that this amendment is useful and it may be accepted by the Government.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That at the end of part (a) of the Clause, the following words be added:

"and including mutiny pensions".

Sardar Darshan Singh (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That in part (c) of the clause, lines 5-6 the words "or the forces.... public order' be deleted.

Mr. Speaker, a very awkward method is being adopted in this Bill for the abolition of Jagirs. During the struggle for independence it was said that those who had given false evidence against the patriots would be prosecuted but it is strange that more facilities are being given to them. They are being given seats in the District Boards and the Assembly. In the past our leaders used to say that those who had been setting the hands of the clock of our independence back would be prosecuted but to-day they appear to have changed their minds. Do our Ministers now think that they did good work? I hope that this amendment of mine will be accepted.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That in part (c) of the clause, lines 5-6, the words "or the forces ....public order" be deleted.

Shri Mool Chand Jain (Sambhalka) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That Sub-Clause (b) be omitted.

Mr. Speaker, my amendment is very ordinary. The definition of the word "Government" as it stands is likely to give rise to a misunderstanding. What is proposed is this that the Jagirs granted by the Government of India and the previous Governments should also be included. This is why I have moved this amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That Sub-Clause (b) be omitted.

Rao Gajraj Singh (Gurgaon) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That at the end of Part (a) (ii) the following be added—

"in the shape of Special Landed Gentry Grants, or Special Recuriting Grants under the Colonization of Land (Punjab) Act, 1912 (Punjab Act V of 1912) or under the Government Tenants (Punjab) Act, 1893 (Act, III of 1893)

That at the end of the part (a) the following be added:

"but shall not include any grant made by Government or on behalf of Government to political sufferers or their dependents after 15th August, 1947."

That after part (a) (ii) the following be added:

[Rao Gajraj Singh]

"(iii) All jagirs covered by the expression "Jagir" in the Punjab Jagirs Act, 1941 (Punjab Act V of 1941)

"(iv) Cis-Sutlej Jagirs and Mutiny Jagirs"

That part (b) be deleted.

That in part (c), line 8—10, the words "and shall not......Mutiny Jagirs" be deleted.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment has been moved to make the Bill rather more clear. I would like to congratulate the Chief Minister and the Minister for Development on having introduced this piece of legislation. The purport of this Bill has not only been included in the Congress manifesto but it is a timely demand of the people that the decision of abolishing jagirs should be given effect forthwith. This demand has not been put forth in the interest of the Congress Party itself but for the good of those people and to remove the badge of infamy from the faces of those people who are yet wearing the same old blemished and reprehensible dress despite the fact that India is now free. Yesterday, an hon. Member waxed eloquent over dubbing the patriots and martyrs of 1857 whose sacrifices are unparalleled in the history of the world as traitors. I think he is the only person in this House who has got this view. To call those persons '*gaddars*' who have undergone heavy sufferings, both mental and physical, who have lost their properties and have even sacrifieed their lives for the sake of their motherland does not behove my hon. Friend.

Mr. Speaker : Are you sure about the word '*gaddar*' ?

Rao Gajraj Singh : I am definite, Sir. You can consult the records. He further added that these *gaddars* and *purbias* had put an end to Sikh reign.

Mr. Speaker : I am consulting the records.

Rao Gajraj Singh: Mr. Speaker, what I want to submit is that they were the martyrs of 1857 who by their heroic deeds had given new life to the half-dead people of our country.

Mr. Speaker: You are a pleader. You should not forget that you have to speak on the amendment before the House.

Rao Gajraj Singh : Sir, I am discussing this point because the word mutiny has been mentioned in the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The very word "mutiny" is objectionable.

Rao Gajraj Singh : Sir, the henchmen of Britishers who had helped them at the last moment when they were about to flee, who had harboured and concealed them or who had supplied them drinking water had been granted jagirs worth several thousands of rupees. They had not done any meritorious service to their country. One of the hon. Members has remarked that they were granted jagirs for the heroic deeds. In this connection I have to submit that there is one jagir granted to a family in my district. That family is nick-named as 'Chuha Khandan' as no member of that family has a height of more than four feet but the British Government conferred on them the title of 'Nawabs'. Similarly the other people who had helped that Government in tracing out the patriots and in slaughtering their families, were honoured with these titles

Mr. Speaker, only yesterday the case of Shri Ganda Singh of Patiala was referred to by some hon. Member. In this connection I would like to read out a cutting of a newspaper. My hon. Friend has wrongly stated the history of Mai Jindan whereas the fact of the matter is as follows :

> But she had been disillusioned to find that in the course of their nine months' stay in the country the British raj had won over, by liberal grants and promises of Jagirs, high offices, titles and other favours, most of the leading chiefs of the State and has so lubricated them in their own favour as to make them turn their backs upon the interests of the Lahore State and to petition to the British Government to tighten the British hold upon the Punjab.

In reality they were the people who can be blamed for putting an end to the Sikh regime. It is only the wearer who knows where the shoe pinches. It has been remarked that these '*chatni walas*' should be done away with and the '*murabba walas*' should be saved. They say that they had got these '*murabbas*' after rendering meritorious service to their country. Mr. Speaker, the fact is that these '*murabbas*' were not granted by that Government because of the military service but the persons who had unduly flattered the British Government and had given false evidence against the patriots raised their voice that nothing was granted to them and so the then Government sanctioned '*murabbas*' for them. They are the admirers of British culture and do not like Indian civilisation. We want that they should give up their bad habits. They however stand fast on their ground. They make hue and cry......

Mr. Speaker : Please leave this " hue and cry " and speak on the amendment which is before the House.

Rao Gajraj Singh : Sir, what I want to submit is that these '*murabba walas*' are the object of hatred for the public at large. I think that if their *murabbas* are seized forcibly it would be in their own interest. It would be to their betterment if........

Shri Sri Chand : Shut up. What do you mean by that ?

Mr. Speaker : I call the hon. Member to order. He should address the Chair.

Rao Gajraj Singh : Mr. Speaker, if the Congress Government does not snatch away the 'murabbas' which have been granted to the henchmen of the British Government on nominal charges and without rendering any service to the nation, what else can it do ? It is an urgent demand of the public. It is but meet and proper for the Government to deprive these people of their *murabbas*. This programme is included in the Congress manifesto and should be carried out forthwith.

Mr. Speaker : Motions moved—

That at the end of part (a) (ii) the following be added—

> "in the shape of Special Landed Gentry Grants, or Special Recruiting Grants under the Colonization of Land (Punjab) Act, 1912 (Punjab Act V of 1912) or under the Government Tenants (Punjab) Act, 1893 (Act III of 1893);

That at the end of the part (a) the following be added—

> " but shall not include any grant made by Government or on behalf of Government to political sufferers or their dependants after 15th August, 1947".

[Mr. Speaker]

That after part (a) (ii) the folllowing be added—

"(iii) All jagirs covered by the expression "Jagir" in the Punjab Jagirs Act, 1941 (Punjab Act V of 1941).

"(iv) Cis-Sutlej Jagirs and Mutiny Jagirs"

That part (b) be deleted.

That in part (c), lines 8—10, the words "and shall not........Mutiny Jagirs" be deleted.

Shri Sarup Singh (Narnaund) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That at the end of part (a) (ii) the following be added—

"In the shape of heriditary landed gentry grants in the Haveli Project, Colony or peasant grants in the Haveli Project Colony or Civil non-official reward grants in the Haveli Project Colony under the Colonisation of Government Lands (Punjab) Act, 1912".

Mr. Speaker, first of all I must congratulate the Minister for Development for having brought forward this Bill. The people of the Punjab have been anxiously and eagerly waiting for the time when our Government would put an end to these Jagirs and Grants. My amendment demands an abolition of the three categories of grants, namely : Hereditary Landed-Gentry Grants, Peasants' Grants and Civil Non-official Reward Grants. An hon. Friend was pleased to remark yesterday that these Grants were awarded by the Government of the day to certain people for good work and meritorious services and that, therefore, they should not be abolished. My submission is that these lands were granted by the British Government to those people who were enemies of their country and its people and used to oppose the movement for independence. Another hon. Member has said that these Grants were given by the British Government to certain persons who belonged to very high and respectable families but had somehow fallen on bad days and that the object was to help them to maintain their status in society. But I submit that the British had given these grants for maintaining their status only to those people who had helped that Government in curbing and crushing the movement of the people for the freedom of their country.

I, therefore, request that my amendment may be accepted so that these grants may be abolished at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That at the end of part (a) (ii) following be added—

"In the shape of hereditary landed gentry grants in the Haveli Project Colony or peasant grants in the Haveli Project Colony or Civil non-official reward grants in the Haveli Project Colony under the colonisation of Government Lands (Punjab) Act, 1912".

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (*Hindi*) : Sir I beg to move—

That in part (a) (ii) line 1, the words "any estate in land or" be deleted;

That in part (c) lines 3-4, between the words "personal" and "services" the word "war" be inserted;

That in part (c), Lines 4—6, the words "as a member....public order" be deleted.

I wish to point out that the definition of a jagir proposed in this Bill is so wide that it can cover even the lands allotted to refugees and anybody will be free to

call them jagirs for the purposes of this measure. Similarly, many other lands that were sold by the Government to certain people will also fall under this definition. The definition of a jagir according to this bill is " any estate in land or any interest or right in land revenue, granted, created, affirmed or continued by or on behalf of the Government ". Surely this definition covers much wider ground than intended by the Government to serve the purpose underlying this measure. The question before the House is the abolition of jagirs but it would appear from this definition that even the allottees will be deprived of their lands under this legislation. I , therefore, submit that the definition given in the Bill should be suitably amended.

Again, if the Government has to give something to anybody from its pocket you can call it a jagir, but the lands given to people long long ago which are now tilled by them or their descendants and form the means of their livelihood cannot be termed as jagirs. These people earn their living from those lands by the sweat of their brows.

However, if the Government finds that a certain jagir is undeserved it can be abolished without taking any extreme step. I would advise the Government not to take any step without proper consideration and dispassionate deliberation. This definition of a jagir is not correct. My hon. Friends cannot declare as jagirs even those lands which were given to people by the Government in consideration of their labours and efforts to bring them under the plough. The lands in respect of which the Government has no liability are not jagirs. The Government should not go farther than the actual intention and purpose of this measure.

Then, Sir, it is a common practice to reward the people who have rendered war services. Our own Government has made provisions and arrangements to recognise such services. Therefore, I would submit to my hon. Friends that if they want to abolish the rewards granted by the British Government they should do so in accordance with some well-defined principle. As I said yesterday let the Government define a particular principle and it is welcome to confiscate all jagirs in accordance with that common principle. But it is neither just nor proper to lay down that the law will apply to such and such people and will not touch so and so.

A learned Friend of mine has remarked that the jagirdars were supporters of the Unionist Government and had helped the British Government in crushing the movement for independence. All that I have to say in this respect is that we want the Government to act according to some principle which should be applicable to all. Let me point out that the Government are still keeping in their service persons who committed atrocities on national workers and they have even now paid 6 crores of rupees by way of pensions to some Englishmen living in England. May I ask my hon. Friends whether those people did not do anything against the national movement ? It is very easy to indulge in wild talk. I once again ask the Government to come forward with a declaration that anybody who helped the British Government in any manner will be deprived of all rights and privileges and I assure them, Sir, that I shall be the first man to cry hurrah.

But still I want that first of all they should satisfy themselves with regard to all pros and cons of the matter. Today, we notice that even the people who served the Britishers for more than two or two-and-a-half decades and had

[Shri Sri Chand]
been firing bullets on the innocent people and tormenting the national heroes at the instance of their ruling masters, have since been enjoying the privilege of pensions. This is why I urge that the war service Jagirs should also be abolished. If at all they are to be given, they should be limited to persons rendering personal war services and not to their heirs.

Then, Sir, my next amendment seeks to delete certain words from this sub-clause. These were the few things which I had a mind to discuss and through you, Sir, I would urge upon the Minister to think over them very patiently. He should make provisions in this Act to the extent to which they are justified. He should not support it in such a way that it may become meaningless. I am, therefore, of the opinion that it will be in the fitness of things if some amendments which are really consistent with the Government's policy, are carried out.

Mr. Speaker : Motions moved—

That in part (a) (ii) line 1, the words " any estate in land or " be deleted.

That in part (c) lines 3-4, between the words " personal " and " services " the word " war " be inserted.

That in part (c), lines 4—6, the words " as a member....public order " be deleted.

Before the discussion is allowed to proceed on, I would like to remark that the phrases "रोते श्रोर चिल्लाते" and "Shut up" used by Rao Gajraj Singh and Shri Sri Chand respectively are absolutely improper

Shri Sri Chand : I withdraw that remark, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: And what about Rao Gajraj Singh ?

Rao Gajraj Singh : I also withdraw, Sir.

Minister for Development : (Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, a good many arguments have been advanced both against and in support of this Bill. Since, the discussion is going on on a particular Clause, I will confine my remarks to it only. The gist of all the things that have been said by my hon. Friends is that—

(i) the government should abolish all the grants given to the people, excepting those sanctioned after the 15th August, 1947, in the shape of cash or remittance of land revenue ;

(ii) the government should transfer to itself all the grants or rewards save military Jagirs and religious or charitable grants.

Both these mean one and the same thing. The purport of the amendment tabled by Shri Sri Chand is to some extent, covered by Part (i) and ii of Clause 2 (A) . But I think that the amendment moved by Rao Gajraj Singh to clause 2(A)(ii) will rather restrict the scope of this Bill to a considerable extent. The argument put forward by him is not convincing. His idea in this connection is of course, in conformity with our own but he has failed to convince the government of the necessity of his amendment. What we contemplate doing is that we should neither go too far nor should we retreat from our proposed object. The government is, as a matter of fact, of the view that all

the rewards given to the people in lieu of their services rendered to the previous government, should be withdrawn. Therefore, I do not think that it is feasible to restrict the scope of this Bill to a few particular items, for it is likely that some other similar items which have escaped our attention, may be exempted from its jurisdiction for ever. Of course, I agree to his amended definition but at the same time, I cannot help saying that we shall have to take all the similar things into account before arriving at any conclusion. Let me tell you, Sir, that I am studying all these things very carefully and hope that certain amendments consistent with them, will be made in the Upper House before the Bill is returned to the Assembly. My submission is that I have not been able to incorporate minute details in this Bill owing particularly to the very short time at my disposal. I hope that I shall have such things incorporated in it when the Bill is dealt with in the Legislative Council.

Shri Sri Chand : If this be the case, let the original Bill be passed. What is then the necessity for such a lengthy discussion ?

Minister for Development : Both the Houses will deal with it from their own respective points of view. Let this House pass it in any shape which it likes. The remaining improvements will be made by the other House.

Apart from this my hon. Friend. Sardar Achhar Singh has referred to the Mutiny Pensions. I am not aware whether there are really any pensions entitled " the Mutiny Pensions ". Mutiny Jagirs are, of course, known to me. Moreover, even if there exist any Mutiny Pensions, they relate to another question to be decided first. It is this that whether those pensions had been sanctioned by the Punjab or the Central Government. We are prepared to extinguish them in case they are the liability of the State Government. But we wield no authority to interfere if they had been granted by the Central Government. All the same, his suggestion with regard to the Mutiny Pensions has appealed to me a lot and I am collecting relevant data in this regard. I will definitely provide for this item after I have got the necessary information. When we are anxious to extinguish the Mutiny Jagirs, there is no reason why the Mutiny Pensions should not be abolished also.

The question of Cis-Sutlej Jagirs has also been raised. This Bill will cover only cash Jagirs and not the land Jagirs because such lands have been occupied in villages by the peasants who have been paying their land revenue. I would, therefore, urge upon my hon. Friends to kindly give their unbiased consideration to this aspect. On my part, I am to say that the Mutiny Jagirs and Cis Sutlej Jagirs will include only the Cash Jagirs.

Besides, Sir, there is another category of people. Of course it looks very odd to reproduce the name which is given to this category of jagirs. But I fail to substitute any other name for it. Anyhow there is a particular section called the " Chugal Chakk (ਚੁਗਲ ਚੱਕ) " whose Jagirs will also be extinguished. I mean that the Government intends to acquire to itself even the jagirs, rewards or grants obtained by the people in lieu of their having espied upon the national struggle for freedom or having made reports and complaints against the national heroes. Besides, I also contemplate to add such words which may cover the cases of even the people whom I fail to define in appropriate words. So far only the jagirs of three or four types have been mentioned in the Bill. But we know that there may be 50, 100, 200 or 300 types of such jagirs. We are determined to extinguish all these types of jagirs.

[Minister for Development]

As and when we come to know of the other types of Jagirs, we shall immediately bring them within the scope of this Bill.

There is no denying the fact that the Government of Punjab is anxious to end all Jagirs but at the same time it does not want to disturb the people who are bonafide peasants or who are covered by the colonization Act. Of course there are certain people who obtained jagirs through undesirable means but the position obtaining at present is that no record whereby their bonafides can be judged is available. In the circumstances, I simply submit that I shall have almost all the defects, now brought to my notice, removed when it is discussed in the Legislative Council and subsequently will have the necessary amendments incorporated in the Bill. I, therefore, request my hon. Friend Sardar Achhar Singh not to press his point any more. In the end, I submit that in order to accomplish a healthy development of our State and promote welfare of the poor, it is desirable that all the Jagirs which were granted by the Britishers simply with a view to perpetuating their regime in India, should be extinguished forthwith.

Shri Sri Chand : Sir with your permission, I submit that we are prepared to withdraw all our amendments, if as stated by the hon. Minister, the defects in the Bill are to be removed by the Upper House. In that case the Government may get this Bill passed in this House in its present form.

Minister for Development : Some of the defects will be removed there.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of part (a) of the Clause, the following words be added :

"and including Mutiny Pensions".

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in part (c) of the clause, lines 5-6, the words "or the forces........public order" be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-Clause (b) be omitted.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of part (a) (ii) the following be added—

"in the shape of Special Landed Gentry Grants, or Special Recruiting Grants under the Colonization of Land (Punjab) Act, 1912 (Punjab Act V of 1912) or under the Government Tenants (Punjab) Act 1893 (Act III of 1893)."

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the part (a) the following be added—

" but shall not include any grant made by Government or on behalf of Government to political sufferers or their dependents after 15th August 1947 ".

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That after part (a) (ii) the following be added—

" (iii) All Jagirs covered by the expression " Jagir" in the Punjab Jagirs Act, 1941, (Punjab Act V of 1941)

(iv) Cis Sutlej Jagirs and Mutiny Jagirs. "

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That part (b) be deleted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in part (c) lines 8—10, the words " and shall not..........Mutiny Jagirs " be deleted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of part (a) (ii) the following be added —

" In the shape of hereditary landed gentry grants in the Haveli Project Colony or peasant grants in the Haveli Project Colony or Civil non-official reward grants in the Haveli Project Colony under the Colonisation of Government Lands (Punjab) Act, 1912 ".

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in part (a) (ii) line 1, the words " any estate in land or " be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in part (c) lines 3-4, between the words " personal " and " services " the word " war " be inserted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in part (c), lines 4—6, the words " as a member........public order " be deleted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Speaker : Shri Mool Chand Jain has given notice of an amendment to Clause 3. He may please move it.

Shri Mool Chand Jain : Sir, I move—

That at the end of the Clause, the following be added —

" and where such Jagir consists of land or an estate in land, it shall vest absolutely in Government free from all encumbrances.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That at the end of the Clause, the following be added —

" and where such Jagir consists of land or an estate in land, it shall vest absolutely in Government free from all encumbrances.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the Clause, the following be added—

" and where such Jagir consists of land or an estate in land, it shall vest absolutely in Government free from all encumbrances."

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Mr. Speaker : Question is

That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSE (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-Clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That title be the title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) : Sir, I move—

That the Punjab Extinguishment of Jagirs Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Extinguishment of Jagirs Bill be passed.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, although there are certain drawbacks in this Bill, yet I would call it a useful measure. I find that there is a lacuna in this Bill, namely, that according to clause 5 of the Bill there are certain Jagirs of which we have no knowledge. It shows that many serpents are being protected. I would ask the government whether all the Jagirs which are in the form of cash or landed property are being abolished under this law or some persons will still continue to enjoy some Jagirs. I think that to accord good treatment to an undesirable person tentamounts to feeding a serpent. As a matter of fact I will congratulate the government at that time when it tramples and kills under its iron heels such serpents which it has been continuously feeding for a long time.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—
That the Punjab Extinguishment of Jagirs Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE NORTHERN INDIA CANAL AND DRAINAGE (PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh) (*Hindi*): Sir, I beg to introduce the Northern India Canal and Drainage (Punjab Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Irrigation: Sir, I beg to move—

That the Northern India Canal and Drainage (Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once

Sir, the Government has realised this year that a substantial area of chahi land is being affected by water-logging, that is, by abnormal rise in the

[Minister for Irrigation]
level of sub-soil water. I have already referred to this point and I will now describe in detail as to the steps the Government intend to take to remedy this evil. The government has made a provision of Rs 10 lakhs in the Budget to prevent the land from water-logging and this sum includes a contribution of Rs. 5 lakhs by the Government of India. Our Government had strongly re-presented to the Government of India for grant of financial assistance as the economy of our State has been completely disintegrated. The Government of India has released these funds on the condition that the State Government will also contribute 5 per cent and the rest should be realised from the zamindars whose land is being protected from water-logging. Thus the sum of Rs 22½ lakhs will be recovered from the zamindars. There will be two methods of recovering this amount. The land-owners will pay these charges either wholly or in part in terms of land, labour or cash. In Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Rohtak districts the zamindars have paid these charges in labour instead of in cash. As the financial position of zamindars is not satisfactory it is considered necessary to ask them to pay these charges in terms of labour instead of in cash. This is only to create enthusiasm in them for this scheme. This scheme will cost Rs 2½ crores in all and Rs 40 lakhs have been provided in the current year's Budget. This sum includes the amount that will be realised from the zamindars. In order to remove the difficulty of zamindars in respect of water-logging as has been stated in the statement of Objects and Reasons a provision has been made in clauses 59 and 60 for the realisation of these charges in instalments as arrears of land revenue. In view of the financial stringency and the fact that our government has already taken a loan from the Government of India we are levying these charges on the zamindars. Now that the government has to save the vast area of land from water-logging it has made a provivision of Rs 40 Lakhs in the Budget to finance this scheme of drainage.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the Northern India Canal and Drainage (Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*): Sir, this Bill which has been introduced by the hon. Minister is for the good of the zamindars but I am sorry to say that the Government is not prepared to make any arrangement to have the water logged areas of land drained to reclaim it for cultivation by the peasants who pay land revenue, *abiana*, local rates and Haisiyat Tax to the Government. When the Government of India is spending crores of rupees on the Five-Year Plan, can it not spare funds for drainage to reclaim the water-logged land? In Gurdaspur and Amritsar districts a substantial area of land of the zamindars which will come under the drainage scheme will go waste though the benefit of it will accrue not to them alone but to the country as a whole. Those zamindars who would not like to pay the charges in terms of labour will have to pay in cash. I think it is the duty of the government to construct drainage canals for the peasants because they pay land revenue to the government. But it is stated on behalf of the government that in lieu of the collection of land revenue the government provides justice, police and a large number of beneficient departments to look after their welfare. If any zamindar fails to make payment of these charges it will be recovered from him as arrears of land revenue. It means that warrants will be issued against him and his land will be attached. In case the full amount is not realised from him he will be put into jail.

I wish to submit that this expenditure should be met from the money that is already being collected from the peasants in the form of land revenue, *abiana* etc or else the Centre may be requested to grant the necessary funds. Rs 40 lakhs is not a very small sum of money. If all this money is collected from the people concerned, the construction of drains will not give them much joy especially because it is proposed to realize it in advance.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Northern India Canal and Drainage (Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker: Shri Wadhawa Ram and others have given notice of amendments. Any of them may please move the amendments.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That for the proposed sub-section (1) the following be substituted—

"(1) The entire cost in respect of such scheme shall be borne by the State Government".

That in the proposed sub-section (2), lines 3-4, for the words "land, labour or cash" the word "labour" be substituted.

Sir, every government when it levies a new tax does explain how the money collected in this manner would be utilized, what public good will it do with its help and so on and so forth. If our Government levies *abiana*, it is in return for supplying water and so there is some justification for it. However we fail to understand why the Government collects land revenue when it is not prepared to take any steps for the improvement of land and agriculture without charging some extra levy from the peasants. It is not fair on the part of the Government to make an extra levy and refuse to spend from its coffers money required for effecting improvements in land. When the Government charges land revenue from the peasants, there is no reason why it should not spend on measures aimed at reclaiming land, saving it from water-logging and construction of drains. How can a peasant owning two or four *bighas* of land be expected to contribute towards the cost of construction of drains. Contribution in the form of labour should also be on a voluntary basis; otherwise it is just likely that when a peasant is engaged in his own work he may be forced to work on the construction of drains. This expenditure should be met from the receipts from Land Revenue.

Mr. Speaker: Motions moved—

That for the proposed sub-section (1) the following be substituted—

"(1) The entire cost in respect of such scheme shall be borne by the State Government."

That in the proposed sub-section (2), lines 3-4, for the words "land", labour or cash, the word "labour" be substituted.

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh) (*Hindi*): Sir, I wonder which world our friends are living in. Before bringing forward this Bill, I had held consultations with the zamindars of five districts, namely, Ferozepur, Karnal, Rohtak, Gurdaspur and Amritsar and parts of Ludhiana. The financial position and difficulties were explained to them and they were asked if they would like to contribute labour or money. Quite a number of them gladly expressed their willingness to contribute labour and an equally large number expressed their willingness to contribute money. Even the peasants of Ferozepur represented to me that as they depended for their sustenance on land if such a measure were not passed, they would be put to harm. It is strange, Sir, that though the peasants have no objection to the passage of this Bill, the well-wishers of the public have (*Laughter*). I have not been able to follow the reasoning of my hon. Friends sitting opposite. They want that neither money should be taken nor labour. May I ask them to point out a single country in which the people do not contribute labour for effecting improvements in agriculture and for other beneficent works ? An area of two lakhs acres of land has been rendered unfit for cultivation due to water-logging while in another area of 21 lakh acres the level of sub-soil water has risen to within five or ten feet of the surface. If no precautionary measures are taken to check water-logging, I don't know what will happen to this State.

The Communist friends are never tired of expressing their concern for the welfare of the people but whenever a Bill with this end in view is brought before the House they rise to oppose it fearing lest any improvement in the condition of the people should weaken their party. It ill behoves them to adopt such an attitude. This measure has already found acceptance with the public; there is, therefore, no force in their opposition. All the amendments moved by them are uncalled for.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That for the proposed sub-section (1) the following be substituted—

"(1) The entire cost in respect of such scheme shall be borne by the State Government."

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in the proposed sub-section (2), lines 3-4, for the words "land, labour or cash" the word "labour" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Speaker: Now Clause 3 is before the House. Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina and others have given notice of an amendment to this Clause. Any one of them may move it.

Sardar Acchhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

> That in lines 8-9, for the words " as if it were an arrear of land revenue " the words "in the same manner as civil debts " be substituted.

Sir, I want to put to the hon. Minister a simple question. If every peasant is willing to contribute towards the cost of this work, why has this provision to give powers to the Government to make recoveries of these charges as arrears of land revenue been made in this Bill? We have had a very bitter experience of such provisions in the past. We are afraid that if any peasant is not able to pay this new levy, his property including his bullocks will be attached. The very fact that such a provision has been made shows clearly that the people are unwilling to pay these charges. If they are really so glad to contribute money for this purpose, the hon. Minister should have no objection to the acceptance of this amendment.

It is true that vast areas of land have been brought under cultivation in other countries but in no case was the money realized in advance. Whatever little was realized from the people, it was done after the completion of the work. There is no reason why the Government should not try to effect economies in other expenditure and spend the money thus saved on this work. This work will not after all entail a very heavy expenditure. The Government can easily meet it in the first instance from its own funds. Contribution of labour should also be on a voluntary basis and this clause must also be deleted.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

> That in lines 8-9, for the words " as if it were an arrears of land revenue ", the words " in the same manner as civil debts " be substituted.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

> That in lines 8-9, for the words " as if it were an arrear of land revenue", the word " in the same manner as Civil Debts " be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

> That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

> That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

> That title be the title of the Bill

The motion was carried

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh): Sir, I beg to move—

That the Northern India Canal and Drainage (Punjab Amenement) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the Northern India Canal and Drainage (Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Northern India Canal and Drainage (Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried

THE SIKH GURDWARAS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Speaker: Now we proceed with the Bill to further amend the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925. I call upon Sardar Darbara Singh to move it.

Sardar Darbara Singh (Nurmahal): Sir, I beg to move—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be taken into cosideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Question is —

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSE (*ii*)

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That sub-clause (ii) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker: There is an amendment to clause 2 in the name of Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit. Does he wish to move it?

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That the clause be deleted.

Sir, I think there is no need of delivering a lengthy speech on this amendment since this clause 2 relates to the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 5, which has been referred to the Select Committee. If we pass this clause now, the select committee becomes a meaningless body. That is why

I have moved this amendment. I hope that it will be accepted by the Government.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the clause be deleted.

Sardar Darbara Singh : I accept the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the clause be deleted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Since the amendment has been adopted, the clause stands deleted and the question of putting it to vote does not arise.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Speaker : Now there are amendments to clause 3. First I request Sardar Harkishan Singh to move his amendment.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That at the end of part (a), the following second proviso be added—

"Provided further, that the no-confidence motion shall not be discussed in the general meeting of the Board before the expiry of three months after the constitution of any Executive Committee".

Sir, clause 3 of this Bill is the most important and significant clause, since it provides that when the members cease to have confidence in the President and the Executive Committee of the Shiromani Committee, they can remove them through a motion of no-confidence against them. It is the proper thing. Moreover that is the democratic practice also. But since the question relates to the management of the Gurdwaras, precaution should be taken lest this provision becomes a disease of the members and causes the starting of a continuous conflict for power between the two groups. I think, whosoever is elected President and whatever Executive Committee is formed, they should get the opportunity to show their work and worth by working according to their will for at least three months. It should not be like this that today elections are held and on the fourth day, a no-confidence motion is brought forward against the President. I therefore hope that the House will accept my amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That at the end of part (a), the following second proviso be added—

"Provided, further, that the no-confidence motion shall not be discussed in the general meeting of the Board before the expiry of three months after the constitution of any Executive Committee".

Sardar Wazir Singh (Delhon) (*Punjabi*): Sir, this clause closely resembles clause 3 of the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill which was referred to a Select Committee yesterday. I had, therefore, given notice of an amendment which I could not move on account of being late. The purpose of that amendment was that this clause should not be brought under consideration.

[Sardar Wazir Singh]
But since discussion on this clause has already started, I want to make a few submissions in this connection.

You are aware, Sir, that the presidents of various societies or organisations are generally elected for a period of three or five years. But in the case of the Shiromani Committee the object of the provision for holding the election of the president every year, was that if the President and the Executive Committee should lose confidence of the members of the Shiromani Committee or the Board, they may remove him after one year and then may elect their new president. The meaning of clause 3 of this amending bill is that any aggrieved party whose nominee could not be elected president, can bring forward a no-confidence motion during the course of the year against the nominee of the other group who has been elected president. It means that it will not be possible to carry on any work because the president who will succeed in getting elected and the Executive Committee that will be formed, will be always labouring under the fear of the no-confidence motion and they will not be able to bring about any improvement in the management of the Gurdwaras according to their own will. Although the amendment of my hon. Friend Sardar Harkishan Singh provides for a respite of three months, yet it is not sufficient. Even during this period, no party can show any solid work.

As I have already pointed out that according to the usual rules and convention, the presidents of the various societies are elected for a period of at least three years and if anybody wants to bring forth a vote of no-confidence against that president during that period, he can do so. But the election of a president for just one year is considered to be a motion of confidence in a way. I, therefore, think that, if the House is desirous of the proper working of the Shiromani Committee, it should keep the period of one year intact so that the president may be able to carry on the work of the Committee in a better way according to his will and his programme. It is not good that provision should be made for the existence of a constant fear. If any party or members cease to have confidence in the president of the committee, they can change him at the time of the next year's elections.

Sardar Mohan Singh (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That after the proposed sub-section (3) to section 63, the following sub-section be added—

"(4) Procedure regarding notice of no-confidence motion specified in sub-section (i) will be in the manner prescribed by the Rules made by the Government".

Sir, I wish to submit that it is a very important Bill, An hon. Member of the opposition has pointed out that it will not be possible to work after this Bill has been passed. I shall also be inclined to share his view if this amendment is not accepted. When this Act came into existence, the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee was not a Managing Committee. It used to be only a Supervising Committee. By effecting an amendment in the old Act the local committees were removed and the Executive Committee of the Board was turned into a Managing Committee. The big Gurdwaras which had incomes of lakhs of rupees could give away huge amounts by way of charity. But no money could be given in charity unless it was approved by two-third of the total members of the Committee and the majority of the Board. The amendment substituted " two-third of the members present " for "two-third of the total members of the Committee ".

Mr. Speaker: Please confine yourself to the clause.

Sardar Mohan Singh: Sir, I wish to prove the necessity of the no-confidence motion. I am to submit that in addition to the votes of the office-bearers of the Excutive Committee at least five more votes should be req ired to sanction money for charity. Sometimes there may be four office-bearers. In a Committee of nine members there may be four office bearers and they may require just one more vote to sanction money for charity. In this way they would be in a position to dispose of any amount that they desire. Practically there will be no restriction on them. In this connection I happened once to remark as to what should happen if a no-confidence motion were to be passed? I was told that such a contingency had not been provided for in the Act and the work could continue as before. But then I asked as to what would happen if the Budget were not passed? The reply was that the difficulty could be got over through the decision of a Judicial Commission. Such things should not be done in the present democratic age. We must have a provision by virtue of which an Executive Committee can be removed if the Board passes a no-confidence motion against it.

Sir, when the management was in the hands of the local committees, the auditing of the accounts.......

Mr. Speaker: I hope the hon. Member will finish it here.

Sardar Mohan Singh: Well Sir, I finish.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That after the proposed sub-section (3) to section 63, the following sub-section be added—

"(4) Procedure regarding notice of no-confidence motion specified in sub-section (1) will be in the manner prescribed by the Rules made by the Government".

Sardar Darbara Singh (Nurmahal) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, Sardar Wazir Singh remarked that the period of one year was not sufficient and according to him powers should have been given for five years so that he and his friends could deal with the Gurdwaras as they liked. This is not democracy. I think that a stop can be put to the existing malpractices only by a no-confidence motion. Undesirable things should not be done just by a majority of one. I have proposed that it should be possible to move a no-confidence motion. I would say that there is no weight in the argument of Sardar Wazir Singh and that this Bill should be passed.

The amendment of Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit which proposes a period of three months appears to be acceptable and I support it.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That at the end of part (a) the following second proviso be added—

"Provided further, that the no-confidence motion shall not be discussed in the general meeting of the Board before the expiry of three months after the constitution of any Executive Committee".

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That after the proposed sub-section (3) to section 63, the following sub-section be added—

"(4) Procedure regarding notice of no-confidence motion specified in sub-section (1) will be in the manner prescribed by the Rules made by the Government"

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Questions is—

That Clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 4, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1, (1)

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Sub-Clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

THE PREAMBLE

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Preamble be the Preamble of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Darbara Singh: Sir, I beg to move—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE EVACUEE INTEREST (SEPARATION) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Evacuee Interest (Separation) Supplementary Bill as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the Evacuee Interest (Separation) Supplementary Bill as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker. Question is—

That the Evacuee Interest (Separation) Supplementary Bill as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSES (2) AND (3)

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Sub-Clauses (2) and (3) of Clause, I stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSE (1)

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Sub-Clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That title be the title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon): Sir, I beg to move—

That the Evacuee Intérest (Separation) Supplementary Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the Evacuee Interest (Separation) Supplementary Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr Speaker : Question is—

That the Evacuee Interest (Separation) Supplementary Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE EAST PUNJAB CONSERVATION OF MANURE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1953

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSES (2) AND (3)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 6

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE EAST PUNJAB HOLDINGS (CONSOLIDATION AND PREVENTION OF FRAGMENTATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1953

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Sardar Darshan Singh (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, the Bill introduced in the House is of oustanding significance. It has been designed to meet our long standing demand. Due to the absence of this piece of legislation we people have so far been called as 'Kamins'. But even now my fear is that the officers of the department may misuse their powers and thus extract money from the poor people. I, therefore, hope that Government would take every possible step to keep a strict supervision over them. Next, Sir, I want to submit that the officers who have been deputed to work in the Department of Consolidation of Land Holdings are not performing their duties efficiently and properly. I would request that the Government should keep a close watch over their work.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) (Amendment) Bill as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into considration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker: I call upon Sardar Harkishan Singh to move his amendment to Clause 2.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That to the proposed subsection (3) of Section 20, the following proviso be added—

'Provided that the scheme is supported by the Village Panchayat or village Consolidation Committee in which case the Settlement Officer (Consolidation) shall confirm the scheme.

Mr. Speaker, the work of Consolidation of Land Holdings is very useful to the *kisans* of this State. But they are already being put to great hardship due to the unlimited powers possessed by the officers and this fact is very well known to the Minister for Development and also to every hon. Member of this House. They daily embark upon new policies which result in a lot of botheration and inconvenience to the *kisans*. Due to the day-to-day programmes of the Government they cannot sow their fields at the proper time. In this connection I would like to quote the example of Machhra Village which is situated at a distance of about one and a half mile from my village. In that village when the work of Consolidation of Land Holdings had almost been completed, the people were re-allotted land for sowing purposes. Only 1/10th of the whole work was left undone when some other new orders were received under which the whole scheme was disapproved. What I mean to submit is that due to half-hearted and muddle-headed policies of the Government people have to bear heavy losses.

A similar scheme is being operated in our tehsil town, Phillaur. That scheme is subjected to daily modifications. It is very difficult to say as to when it will be completed. Our Development Minister is in the habit of boasting that he is going to change the map of the province. I agree that the map is actually in the process of being changed. All the roads and paths are

being changed. A path leading from my village to Phagwara was directed towards Jullundur by the Consolidation staff and it was not before six months had passed that they realised their mistake. Such are the schemes prepared and implemented by our Government. The hon. Minister for Development has had occasion to see the working of these schemes with his own eyes. I submit, Sir, that thousands of rupees are changing hands by way of bribes in connection with this consolidation of holdings. People are openly asked to pay money in return for their holdings being fixed near wells or for superior lands being allotted in place of inferior ones. It was on account of such complaints that the hon. Minister for Development had to issue orders for the suspension of certain officers. I do not know whether those officials have been reinstated or whether their cases are still pending but it is clear from these instances how bad the situation is.

Now they are going to adopt a new method. It is said that if there are any objections against a particular scheme of consolidation, the scheme will be scrutinised by another officer in the light of those objections beforeit is put into operation. I say, Sir, that their efforts to increase production through consolidation of holdings have failed miserably. Not only that. They have actually caused a positive decrease in our agricultural production. I can support this statement with definite instances. There are certain places where the work of consolidation could be completed in six months but if you go to the patwari he will tell you that even the paper work has not been completed yet. People have had to keep away from the lands which they have been cultivating till now and the scheme presented in the form of this Bill will extend the period of suspense by another two years. Therefore, I appeal to the Minister for Development in the name of democracy to accept my amendment.

I put it to the hon. Minister for Development, Sir, whether an officer making or approving a scheme in respect of consolidation and changes in paths and roads while sitting in his chair in the Secretariat is not sure to make mistakes. It does not make the least difference to us whether the Government assigns the responsibility of the scheme to a Director or some other officer or even to a patwari but we are sure that it will result in a decrease in our agricultural production. I would, therefore, earnestly request the House to accept this amendment.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That to the proposed sub-section (3) of section 20, the following proviso be added—

"Provided that the scheme is supported by the village Panchayat or village Consolidation Committee in which case the Settlement Officer (Consolidation) shall confirm the scheme."

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I consider this Bill very important because it relates to such an important matter that even a small mistake in this connection can result in a disaster. If any mistake is committed in the work of consolidation the only method to rectify it would be the one proposed in this Bill. The position at present is that if some mistake has been made the village people being ignorant of the law, the man concerned does not file an appeal within the limitation period, and the time allowed for filing an appeal is allowed to expire without the necessary step being taken by him. Thus the mistake remains unrectified.

I am also of the opinion that these operations are being conducted with

[Shri Sri Chand]

too much haste and hurry. This haste is proving harmful. This haste should be avoided because otherwise there is the likelihood of some serious blunders being committed.

With these remarks, Sir, I support this Bill.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I feel that the speech of my hon. Friend Sardar Harkishan Singh had nothing to do with his amendment and that it was made simply for the sake of making a speech. He has said that people are not allowed to till their lands in the areas where the consolidation operations are going on. May I ask him through you, Sir, to tell me where it has been provided that nobody can till the land in an area where the consolidation operations are in progress? I am sorry to say that he is not acting as a true representative of the people. Let me tell him that it is not correct to say that such lands are not allowed to be cultivated. Perhaps he is labouring under a misapprehension. I should like him to know that only boundary marks of the rectangles are not to be tampered with. Beyond that there is no restriction whatever on cultivating those lands. The lands near about those marks can be cultivated as usual. I know that people did have an apprehension of that kind and for that reason I informed the people wherever I went and also got a declaration published in newspapers to the effect that there is no restriction on the cultivation of those lands.

As regards the complaint about roads and paths, I would submit that we cannot be held responsible for anything that took place before the present Ministry came into existence. Let me inform the House that as soon as we took over charge we issued an order that paths should be as straight as possible and circuitous paths must be avoided. Before this Ministry was formed the work of consolidation had already been completed in many areas and possession of lands had been given to the people concerned. If the path from Barala Pind had been directed towards Jullundur instead of Phillaur during that period we are in no way responsible for it. The responsibility for this mistake should lie with the Advisory Committee of the place. That Advisory Committee belonged to the village of the hon. Member. It was not before we ordered the mistake in respect of the paths to be rectified that the committee realised it.

A mention of the prevalence of corruption has also been made in connection with the question of Consolidation of Holdings. There is no gainsaying the fact that corruption does exist. But, Sir, I would like to inform you that I have warned the officers against the danger of the spread of this evil and have asked them to employ all possible means to check it. I have taken this step with a view to minimising, and ultimately putting an end to this social evil. My hon. Friends have observed that this is the most undesirable practice. Who says that it is something good and not an evil? But the point at issue is how it should be tackled. It is also likely that despite my having taken so many remedial steps, corruption may be in existence even at present in some of the villages. But, Sir, the root cause of this evil, according to me, is the leniency shown by the ruralites and their accredited representatives. Instead of greasing the palm of the officials concerned, the best course for them is to report to the government each and every defect in consolidation which comes to their notice. The principle underlying the consolidation operations is the benefit of the tillers of the land so that they may augment the food production. Therefore, I do not appreciate that my hon. Friends like the one hailing from

Nakodar should say things diametrically opposed to what he really feels at heart. It does not behove persons of his calibre who are determined to devote a major part of their life to the service of the people and to the activities of national interest, to talk in such iniquitous terms.

The next point which I wish to refer to is that it is true that corruption does exist but what we have to see is whether this evil practice has recorded a decline or a rise since the inception of the new era ushered in by the present government as compared to its incidence during the tenure of the preceding government. I feel extremely gratified to remark that as compared to the past there has been 90 per cent reduction in this social evil since the formation of this new house and the installation of the representative government into office. In the circumstances, I cannot help saying that the amendment tabled by my hon. Friend, Sardar Harkishen Singh Surjeet is uncalled for. I am of the opinion that the work cannot be run smoothly and efficiently if the responsibility is entrusted to an Advisory Committee. What did such Advisory Committees do in the past? Instead of solving the problems they created further complications. I doubt if their formation will provide any particular facility to the people. For instance, Sir, I tell you what happens in the villages. People are asked to evaluate their holdings themselves. As ill luck would have it, assessment of value had also been provided for in the scheme.The scheme also concerned itself with the area of land to be distributed as a result of the consolidation operations as well as the land which was to be earmarked for pathways etc. In a particular village the people concerned, in order to evaluate their respective shares, assessed the value of their holdings accordingly. Justice required that the assessment should be recognised if it is found that a particular piece of land costs really the amount it was assessed at. But what did actually happen there ? Even the barren and worthless land under ponds and pits etc., has been assessed at extraordinarily higher rates. Nobody cared to make a true assessment of his land. Everybody tried to assess his land at a value equal to the one fixed by the other. On top of it all the pity is that these assessments were passed and endorsed by the Village Committees set up for this purpose. Do my hon. Friends want such defective schemes to be formulated? If, however, such a state of affairs is allowed to exist, how will our overall scheme be implemented ? Evidently, in such a set-up the schemes will be drawn and put through in accordance with the individual decisions of the Panchayats and the Advisory Committees.

There was another flaw noticed in the proper application of the existing Act. Under the existing law the scheme prepared by the Advisory Committee could be objected to by the Consolidation Officer concerned. In much the same way it could again be called by the Settlement Officer who was within his powers to reject it owing to its inconsistency or impracticability. In this way, Sir, in the absence of proper demarcation of their respective functions and powers a great deal of confusion in the proper implementation of this scheme has been noticed. This Bill has, therefore, been introduced simply with a view to regulating their duties. Sir, I may submit that the building will last long only if its foundations are strong. Similarly, how can we expect fruitful result from a scheme which is not a sound one? Besides, Sir, I would like to make it abundantly clear to the House that nobody would be subjected to any kind of injustice or highhandedness. My hon. Friends should, therefore, expel all apprehensions on this score from their minds. On my part I assure them that only the beneficial schemes will be chalked out. The

[Minister for Development]

responsibility for their proper implementation will rest collectively on all the revenue officers. I may assure you Sir, that I will spare no officer who is found guilty of resorting to any malpractice. Previously the Tehsildars pleaded their helplessness in view of the assessments having been made by the villagers themselves unanimously. People used to assess the value of even the barren and worthless lands as high as those of fertile ones. Such a state of affairs would end in nothing but resentment and discontentment. My hon. Friends urge in the name of democracy why this work should not be entrusted to the Panchayats and the Advisory Committees when they had already been doing it. I am sure that they would not have argued in such terms had they taken into account the achievement that they had made till now. Moreover, Sir, my submission is that I am rather going to shoulder a major responsibility through this Bill. Previously everybody had a tendency to shift responsibility to the next man. The Tehsildar had one usual excuse to advance i.e., the work pertained to the Panchayats or the Advisory Committees. Now I will hold my own officers responsible for each and every discrepancy found in the execution of the work. I will take to task the officer responsible for formulating wrong or defective schemes.

I must say that my hon. Friend Shri Sri Chand has put forth a reasonable argument. In this connection I am to remark that this scheme will be implemented on mass-scale and those poor sections of the people who have been denied their representation in the present Advisory Committees and whose lands have not been properly assessed, will be provided a safeguard through this Bill. Accordingly, the government will see where the lacunae exist and who are the aggrieved so that their lot may be ameliorated.

In the end, Sir, I am to submit that this is a basic factor. I can make bold to submit that the hon. Member who opposes it is not a champion of the poor. He does not think in favour of the ruralites and that he only contemplates to create disorder in the villages. In fact no restriction whatsoever should have been imposed on the scheduled consolidation programme of the government. But, at the same time, I do feel that the operations cannot be put through satisfactorily in case the powers sought through this Bill are not conferred on the government. I am fully confident that the hon. Sardar Wazir Singh and others who are keenly interested in the consolidation work, will wholeheartedly welcome this Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That to the proposed sub section (3) of section 20, the following proviso be added—

"Provided that the scheme is supported by the Village Panchayat or Village Consolidation Committee in which case the Settlement Officer (Consolidation) shall confirm the scheme."

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Speaker: Question is--

That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Speaker: Question is:—

That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) (Amendment) Bill as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be passed.

In this connection I am only to submit that this Amending Bill embodies a very significant provision. During the course of discussion, I have observed that some of my hon. Friends have expressed their apprehensions that it will give an impetus to corruption and other malpractices. But, Sir, I take this opportunity to assure them that they are only unduly nervous. Let me assure them that I am particulary vigilant about this aspect of the matter and will be ever prepared to take severe disciplinary action againt the officers who are found at fault. The actual position is that some lacunae were found in the proper implementation of this scheme. This Bill has, therefore, been designed to remove the same and also with a view to improve the efficiency of the work. Previously the system was so defective that the responsibility could not be fixed on any particular officer or official. Now what I contemplate doing will create a joint responsibility on the part of the villagers themselves and the officers concerned. Now the people will guard themselves against the offering of bribes; for nobody can get it if it is not offered. Today, we feel extremely pained to see and hear about the misfortunes and

[Minister for Development]
difficulties of the people. Therefore, I am thinking of evolving some solution of the problems which confront them. I make bold to submit, Sir, that whenever in future I come across any instance of highhandedness, I assure you that I will take the officer concerned to task and will spare no pains to crush this tendency boldly by exercising the enlarged powers which are now being conferred through this Bill. The people, who are in the habit of greasing the palms of the officers, will also have to be ready to bear the consequences. I hope that I would succeed in removing the difficulties of the people. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Sardar Wazir Singh (Delhon) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, hon. Sardar Partap Singh has stated that he wants to eradicate corruption from this department. I concede that he has been making efforts in that direction since last year and has succeeded in his object to a considerable extent (*Cheers*). He further stated that he would improve the condition of the zamindars but that those people who interfered with the working of this department were responsible for the corruption and he would take strong action against them. I do not agree with his view regarding the cause of corruption. In my opinion his strong policy has made the officers of the Consolidation Department honest but it is not true that the people are in the habit of offering illegal gratification. Whenever a person offers a bribe he does so under compulsion. When he finds that work cannot be got done in any other manner he has no alternative except to offer illegal gratification. At present there is one major defect in the Consolidation Department which is hindering the successful completion of this useful work. Neither the officers are corrupt nor do the people offer them bribes. Those gentlemen who have some influence with the Ministers or big officers go and tell the officers of the Consolidation Department that such and such persons should be favoured as they are their relatives. This thing naturally results in injustice being done to some poor persons. I wish to point out to the hon. Minister that the same persons who come to the Rest Houses to receive the Ministers during their tours exert undue influence on the officers of the Consolidation and other departments on the ground that they have easy access to the Ministers. If a person wants promotion or some other favour, these gentlemen tell him that they would speak about his case to the hon. Minister for Development. As the officers are subordinate to the Ministers and have got to get several things done by them, they have no alternative but to help the persons whose cases are recommended by the Ministers' friends. This leads to injustice being done to poor people.

Another matter towards which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Development is that the work of consolidation of holdings is being done at a very slow pace. By the time this work is done and land is consolidated into holdings of four or five bighas each, it will have been redistributed into pieces measuring one or two bighas each. To avoid this situation it should be completed as early as possible.

There are two more matters about which I wish to say a few words. In the first place the area of land in the Punjab is so small that hardships of the zamindars will not end even if it is consolidated. In addition to their consolidation, the Government will have to introduce co-operative farming or some

other methods for lessening their hardships. Secondly, whenever some beneficial scheme is placed before the Government or this House the plea of want of funds is put forward. I beg to submit that fee for the consolidation work is realised from the people. After meeting the expenditure incurred on this work the Government saves some amount. The question of finances, therefore, does not arise in the case of this work. If the Government pleads that it has not got the required number of patwaris for doing this work, I beg to submit that there are thousands of graduates and undergraduates who are jobless. A school should be opened for their training by spending money out of the funds collected in the form of consolidation fees and they should then be utilized for doing the consolidation work. In this way the work will be done very speedily and a number of unemployed persons will be able to get jobs.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister for Development stated in the course of his speech that those persons who offer illegal gratification to the officers of the Consolidation Department would be punished by the Government.

Mr. Speaker: This has nothing to do with the Bill under discussion.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut: My amendment seeks to make the Government have faith in the people. As a matter of fact the people are not fond of offering bribes. It is not proper that the hon. Minister should hold such views about the people who have returned him to this House.

Another submission which I wish to make is that at places where canals are being built, the lands of some persons will be submerged under the canals and they will be rendered landless. This thing is happening in districts Hoshiarpur and Jullundur. The Government has no doubt issued instruction that fresh consolidation should be done at places where canals are dug but the officers of that department do not care to do that work. Those persons who are rendered landless feel greatly distressed and remark sorrowfully that it would have been better if the canal had not been constructed at all.

The third point is that the schemes of the government are prepared haphazardly and it pays very little attention to them. In my district the scheme of consolidation of land-holding was first launched in Tehsil Garhshankar but after sometime it was given up and this work was started in tehsil Dasuya. I think the greatest problem is to reclaim 3 lakh acres of land in Hoshiarpur district which has been rendered unfit for cultivation by the 'chos'. The worst type of land is in tehsil Hoshiarpur. The people are leaving this tehsil because the government has not started the work of consolidation of land-holdings there. I think that unless consolidation of land-holding is effected in this tehsil the problem of land in Hoshiarpur District cannot be solved.

Sardar Mohan Singh (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I would submit that the work of consolidation of holdings is being done very satisfactorily in my constituency this year as compared with that done during the last year and it has been rather beyond my expectation. The Government officers are so zealously devoted to this work that they are doing it even at night with the aid of gas lamps so that this work may be completed as early as possible. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Sri Chand has remarked that the government should try to complete the work of consolidation at an early date. He is a laywer

[Sardar Mohan Singh]

and therefore must be knowing that even a case relating to the distribution of property between two brothers goes on hanging for many years in a court. Sir, the work of settlement requires not merely a re-arrangement of strips of land but also a *de novo* measurement of lands. But where steps have to be taken to group together the various scattered plots into a single compact holding by a scheme of mutual exchanges among the cultivators, it is not possible to execute the work very quickly. I think that the work of consolidation is proceeding very efficiently and that it deserves our ample admiration.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*): Sir, my hon. Friend Sardar Chanan Singh has now raised the question of 'chos' which shows that he is laying emphasis on irrelevant things and is making a short shrift of the matters that are closely connected with the present issue. When he gets an opportunity to meet the officers he tells them that I am very harsh towards them and goads them to form unions and go on strike; and whenever he speaks here he blames me for saying that the people themselves bribe the officers and make them corrupt. I would submit that among the public there are people who are good and bad. Similarly, among the officers there are many good officers and the number of bad officers is also not small. I would say that there are certain people who think that their work will not be done unless they grease the palms of the officers. I, therefore, think that we should all try to create a good atmosphere in the State. If every person were to cultivate good habits then there would be all angels in this world. If the people in India had all made a joint struggle for independence then the Britishers would not have ruled this country for a hundred years. I would say that the officers such as patwaris, naib-tehsildars, tehsildars and revenue officers who have done good work and have done justice to the people in connection with the consolidation of holdings will be given promotions. At the same time I would appeal to the public that they should be conscious of their rights and ask the officers that they must realise their duties. The people should not bribe the officers but should try to expose such officers who are currupt. If the people adhere to this principle then the work of consolidation can be carried on efficiently.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation (Amendment) Bill as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be passed.

The motion was carried.

AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ALLOWANCES OF MEMBERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar): Sir, I beg to move—

That the Amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Punjab Legislative Council (Allowances of Members) (Amendment) Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 5th December 1952, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in Punjab Legislative Council (Allowances of Members) (Amendment) Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 5th December 1952, be taken into consideration.

Sardar Wazir Singh (Delhon) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I believe that it does not behove us that we should pass a bill through which we have to get some financial benefit, with our own votes.

Mr. Speaker: You cannot discuss a Bill which you have already passed. Besides the Bill under consideration has no connection with money going into our pockets.

Sardar Wazir Singh: Sir, I wish to speak in favour of the amendment sent by the Council, after developing my argument a bit. I think that the amendment made by the hon. Members of the Council in this bill is quite proper. You are aware, Sir, that we get Rs 10 per diem or Rs 300 per mensem as compensatory allowance when we come to attend the meetings of the Assembly or the Council. That is not all. This allowance is paid throughout the year and even for the period when there is no session.

Besides this, the real purpose of the membership of the Assembly and the Council is public service and not that it should be made a source of any monetary gain. All of us know that the total number of sittings of the Assembly or the Council in a year does not exceed 30, 35 or 40. Therefore, the amendment passed by the members of the Council is quite reasonable, namely, that the member who attends any meeting of any sub-committee, select committee or any other committee set up by the Assembly, other than the meetings of the Assembly or Council, should be given either halting allowance or return fare. It is the proper thing.

Sir, I fail to understand why our House is not accepting such a reasonable thing. If we go on passing such laws, how are we to face the public? We are sanctioning such huge allowances for ourselves that we shall be ashamed to own this act before the people. I would request the Minister to kindly reconsider this amendment and accept it if it is found to be reasonable.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the *Punjab Legislative Council (Allowances of Members) (Amendment) Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 5th December, 1952, be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker: Now I will put the amendment made by the Legislative Council to Clause 2, to the vote of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

(1) That for the proposed clause (b) (ii) to section 4, the following be substituted—

"(b) (ii) a halting allowance at the rate of Rs 10 per day for each day of attendance of a meeting of a Committee appointed by the Punjab Legislative Council or a Joint Committee of both the Houses of the Legislature when held at Simla and at the rate of Rs 7/8/ per day for each day of attendance held anywhere else in the State of Punjab."

(2) That in the explanation, in line 2, between the words "meetings" and "shall" the words " of the Committee or the Joint Committee" be added.

The motion was lost.

*For passage of the Bill, please refer to Debates volume I, No. 27, dated the 17th April 1953.

AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (ALLOWANCES OF MEMBERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar): Sir, I beg to move—

That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Punjab Legislative Assembly (Allowances of Members) (Amendment) Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 5th December, 1952, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Punjab Legislative Assembly (Allowances of Members) (Amendment) Bill which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 5th December, 1952, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the *Punjab Legislative Assembly (Allowances of Members) (Amendment) Bill which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 5th December, 1952, be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker: Now I will put the amendment suggested by the Legislative Council to Clause 2 to the vote of the House. Question is—

(1) That for the proposed clause (b) (ii) to section 4, the following be substituted—

(b) (ii) a halting allowance at the rate of Rs 10 per day for each day of attendance of a meeting of a Committee appointed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly or a Joint Committee of both the Houses of the Legislature when held at Simla and Rs 7/8 per day for each day of attendance of the meeting held anywhere else in State of Punjab.

(2) That in the explanation, in line 2 between the words" meetings" and "shall" the words " of the Committee or the Joint Committee" be added.

The Assembly divided

Ayes	..	21
Noes	..	70

The motion was declared lost.

AYES

1. Achhar Singh Chhina, Sardar.
2. Bhag Singh, Sardar (Muktsar).
3. Bhag Singh, Sardar (Kot-Bhai).
4. Chanan Singh, Sardar.
5. Darshan Singh, Sardar.
6. Gopal Singh, Sardar.
7. Harkishan Singh Surjit
8. Iqbal Singh, Principal
9. Karnail Singh Sidhu, Sardar.
10. Maru Singh Malik, Chaudhri.
11. Mukhtiar Singh, Sardar.
12. Naurang Singh, Sardar.

*For passage of the Bill, please refer to Debates Vol. 1, No. 27, dated 17th April, 1953.

AYES

13. Nidhan Singh, Sardar.
14. Partap Singh, Sardar.
15. Partap Singh Rai, Sardar.
16. Partap Singh, Master.
17. Puran Singh, Sardar.
18. Ram Parkash, Shri.
19. Sri Chand, Shri.
20. Wadhawa Ram, Shri.
21. Wazir Singh, Sardar.

NOES

1. Abdul Ghani Dar, Shri.
2. Abhai Singh, Shri.
3. Amir Chand Gupta, Shri.
4. Badlu Ram, Shri.
5. Baloo Ram, Shri.
6. Balwant Rai Tayal, Shri.
7. Balwant Singh, Sardar.
8. Bhim Sen Sachar, Shri.
9. Chandi Ram Varma, Shri.
10. Chuni Lal, Shri.
11. Dalbir Singh Gohar, Shri.
12. Darbara Singh, Sardar.
13. Daulat Ram, Shri.
14. Daulat Ram Sharma, Shri.
15. D.D. Puri, Shri.
16. Dev Raj Anand, Shri.
17. Dev Raj Sethi, Shri.

NOES

18. Gajraj Singh, Rao.
19. Ganga Ram, Shri.
20. Gorakh Nath, Shri.
21 Goran Dass Hans, Bhagat.
22. Gurbachan Singh Attwal, Sardar.
23. Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, Sardar.
24. Gurdatt Singh, Shri.
25. Gurdial Singh, Sardar.
26. Gurdial Singh Dhillon, Sardar.
27. Harbhajan Singh, Principal.
28. Hari Singh, Sardar.
29. Harnam Singh Sethi, Shri..
30. Jagat Narain, Shri.
31. Jagat Ram Bhardwaj, Shri.
32. Jagdish Chandra, Shri.
33. Joginder Singh, Sardar.
34. Kartar Singh, Sardar.
35. Khem Singh, Sardar.
36. Khushi Ram Gupta, Shri.
37. Lajpat Rai, Shri.
38. Lahri Singh, Chaudhri.
39. Mam Chand, Shri.
40. Mam Raj, Shri.
41. Mehar Singh, Shri.
42. Mohan Singh Jathedar, Sardar.
43. Mota Singh, Professor.

[Mr. Speaker]

NOES

44. Nand Lal, Shri.
45. Nanhu Ram, Shri.
46. Narinjan Dass Dhiman, Shri.
47. Parkash Kaur, Shrimati.
48. Partap Singh Bakshi, Shri.
49. Partap Singh Kairon, Sardar.
50. Phaggu Ram, Shri.
51. Raghuvir Singh, Rai.
52. Rala Ram, Shri.
53. Ram Chandra Comrade, Shri.
54. Ram Kumar Bidhat, Shri.
55. Ranjit Singh, Capt.
56. Ratan Amol Singh, Sardar.

NOES

57. Rizaq Ram, Shri.
58. Sadhu Ram, Shri.
59. Samar Singh, Shri.
60. Sant Ram, Shri.
61. Sarup Singh, Shri.
62. Shanno Devi, Shrimati.
63. Sher Singh, Shri.
64. Sita Devi, Shrimati.
65. Shri Ram Sharma, Shri.
66. Sohan Singh, Sardar.
67. Som Datt, Shri.
68. Sundar Singh, Shri.
69. Uttam Singh, Sardar.
70. Wazir Singh Sardar.

THE PUNJAB VILLAGE COMMON LANDS (REGULATION) BILL, 1953.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Bill.

Minister for Development: Sir, I beg to move—

> That the Punjab Village Common Lands (Pegulation) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker, to-day we are taking the first step through this Bill to bring our rural population on a common footing of equality. In the villages of the old days there was not much difference between the owners and the non-owners. The difference came into existence in a very acute form during the time of our slavery. As the people became more and more politically minded, the well-to-do persons tried to widen the gulf between the agriculturists and the non-agriculturists or the owners and the non-owners, for their own personal ends. By and by this difference assumed a very terrible form. In reality the village was a common economic unit and there was no difference between its inhabitants. The people lived in such a manner that every one had love and affection for others, so much so that the residents of a particular village were proud of belonging to that village. The change of times, however, has caused this rift among people who once lived united with the bonds of love. To-day the solidarity and the strength of the economic unit stands greatly impaired. The weakness of this unit knows no bounds. The people who do not own

any land in the village are called Kamins. The word "Kamin" is a relic of our slavery. In ancient times people were not described as owners or Kamins in India. These descriptions became more and more pronounced with the advent of the foreign rulers. The well-to-do people began to use the words "owners" and "Kamins" and the difference was so much emphasized that the poor class of people began to think that they had no interest in the village. When stress was laid still further on the difference, the Harijans who always did the manual work began to feel that they had no right to the common land. It was strange that all work was to be done by them but the benefits were to be received by others. They were not recognized as owners of the sites of their own houses in which they had always lived according to the revenue records and they were entitled only to the material of the houses if and when they shifted to some other place. These things had come into being when India was not free. The root cause of this degradation was our slavery. Such a state of affairs cannot be allowed to exist in an independent India. That class of people which is poor and which is not cared for by the zamindars in the villages is in great distress. Mr. Speaker, the political jugglers have adopted such tactics that even at the slightest difference between the owner and the poor tenant the latter is asked to quit the house. It is a matter of great regret that in India where the people lived like brothers and anybody's daughter was treated by every person just like his own these differences and inequalities have found their way. It is political jugglers and the landlord only who create these bickerings and dissensions in order to grind their own axes. Whenever they do not see their will being carried out, ordinarily they create still more difficulties and complications which lead to discomfort and inconvenience for the poor people. And, as such, poor kisans cannot lead a happy life in villages. Our India which has now shaken off the yoke of foreign serfdom, would not be able to make its way on the road of prosperity in spite of a very good Constitution unless all these differences are ironed out completely. Mr. Speaker, if we wish to be counted amongst human beings we shall have to remove all those evils which found their way in our country during the foreign regime. It is not proper to deprive the poor people of their right of using the common land for grazing their cattle especially when they have no other land of their own and are reduced to straitened circumstances. This Bill seeks to end all the atrocities perpetrated on them. If any person stands in our way we would be compelled to remove him by force. When the mischievous element incites a particular section of the community against the poor people in order to gain their own end the noble and right thinking persons feel afflicted. They feel that this mischief should be stopped forthwith. Sir, our India is an indivisible whole and we should be able to count upon every villager of this Union that in the time of emergency he would lay down his life while fighting against the enemy. But with the change of time some drawbacks have found their way in the administration of the country. We want to remove all those evils in order to rehabilitate the villagers afresh and improve upon the defective administration. We wish that every person of our country should be respected as was the case in old times when our nation was free. To achieve this end we have to lift up the down-trodden villagers, remove the differences between the landlords and tenants and after that we would be able to run the Government shoulder to shoulder as one man. It would be only then that we would be in a position to realise the economic standard of the people in general. It is only to achieve this end that we want to give the rights over the *shamilats* to the Panchayats. All the villagers collectively would be considered as its owners. If my hon. Friends care to see the past history of our country they would realise that in villages every person had equal rights over every

[Minister for Development]
thing and because of this very reason our Constitution affords equal opportunities to every citizen of the country irrespective of caste and creed. Accordingly, we also want to remove the defects of the existing Act by passing this amendment so that all the villagers may remain in unison with each other and their economic condition may improve.

Mr. Speaker, in old days every Harijan girl was treated by every person in a village as his own daughter. That is the kind of feeling we wish to bring about by removing all the evils created by the century-old slavery. The evil of turning out the poor people from their houses could be tolerated during the foreign domination only. But now when our country has shaken off the foreign domination the mere thought of such things happening sends a shiver through my body. Why should some people, who are prepared to lay down their lives for the sake of their motherland at every moment, be not allowed to enjoy equal rights with others so that they may also feel that this is their own country? I would like to make it clear to the dissident hon. Members that a person who does not try to keep pace with the change of time falls upside down.

In this connection it would not be out of place to mention here that Government has issued instructions to the Patwaris and other officers that they should not make a mention of any persons' race, tribe or creed in their registers. Nobody should be called a *Chuhra*. These precautions are essential if we really want to attain humanity and civilization. We are all Indians and we should not injure anybody's feelings by calling him low-born or ignoble. We should not do any such act which would create mutual conflicts between Indians and Indians. All these things were the clear proofs of the foreign domination in our country, I am confident that by passing this Bill we can lead our nation on the road to prosperity.Then, Sir, there is a red line on the map of every revenue estate which indicates the land that actually belongs to the Government but the poor people can build residential houses on it for their own use. But they have no proprietory rights on those lands and if they want to move out of the lands they can take away the building material. Those people cannot call themselves the owners of those lands. I cannot but feel that this state of affairs in the country and our own State is the result of foreign subjugation. Now certain people have been exploiting others because the latter had no land of their own. It is for this reason that we have brought forward a provision to the effect that a person will be considered the owner of the land on which he may have built a house. At present the poorer sections of the rural population have to face many hardships simply because they have no land of their own and this is really a blot on the fair names of India and our own Punjab.

It has not been possible to remove all such evils because our country has been under foreign yoke for a long time. Everybody could purchase land in the olden days. But certain people did not purchase any land because they did not feel the necessity for it at that time. Now-a-days a labourer living in a village is literally tossed from pillar to post and we must solve this problem of his. We want to revive the old economic fraternity and raise the standard of rural life according to our world-renowned Indian philosophy. We want that every person in India and in our own State should have his own house to live in. Even now the poor labourers and cultivators in our State want to be able to proudly call themselves the owners of their Punjab but old traditions and customs stand in their way. I know how these people are not allowed to

answer the call of nature in the fields by landlords. We know how these people have to face a great difficulty even in the matter of getting water for their animals and how they have to bear a lot of hardship in so many ways. In view of these conditions I feel that we have received from the Punjab Council a proposal which will enable the Punjabis to live happily and love each other as brothers. In fact we have to revive the old glory of the Punjab. We Punjabis are famous for holding our heads high and now we want to get rid of the old and useless customs so that we may once again be able to hold our heads high and be proud of being Punjabis. We are going to bring about conditions in which we will be able to declare that all the punjabis are the owners of the land of this State, and that we are not going to make use of these lands for individual benefit but will use them for the common welfare of all Punjabis. I hope that the representatives of one crore and 26 lakh Punjabis who are sitting in this House will gladly support this Bill and thus show to the world how glorious our State is.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (*Hindi*): Sir, whenever the hon. Minister, Sardar Partap Singh, has to plead a comparatively weak case he tries to speak in a loud pitch and create an atmosphere in which his plea would sound plausible. His speech reminds me of an anecdote. A man travelling on horse-back had to spend the night in a village. One of the villagers welcomed him. The traveller tethered his mare in the compound of the house and went to sleep. By chance the mare gave birth to a colt during the night. Now when the traveller was about to depart with his mare and the new-born colt after having thanked his host the latter objected to the colt being taken away by him saying that it was not the mare of the traveller but his own bullock that had given birth to the colt. When the traveller insisted that the colt was the offspring of the mare, the host challenged him to refer the dispute to the panchayat. The traveller at once agreed to the proposal and the panchayat when called gave the verdict that the colt appeared to have been born to the bullock.

Minister for Development: To which part of the province did that panchayat belong?

Shri Sri Chand: It belonged to ilaqa Patti of the Amritsar District. (*Laughter*).

Now Mr. Speaker, just as that panchayat had given its decision in favour of the man who declared that the colt was born to the bullock this Bill seeks to snatch the land from the poor people in order to give it to the rich. We are in favour of giving land to the poor but we find that quite the reverse is being done here.

It is true that the Harijans are very poor. We have a very soft corner in our hearts for them. We shall raise no objection if the Government were to vest in them the ownership of '*Shamilats*'. But in fact and actual practice what is going to happen? Facilities are going to be provided to

[Shri Sri Chand]

the fat zamindars in the name of and at the expense of these underdogs. The intention is to snatch away lands even from those people who in order to pay the land revenue had to part with their jewellery and, above all, were forced by the dint of circumstances to sell away their grown up daughters. Has the miserable plight of these people been forgotten? Sir, today they pronounce this Government to be the representative of the poor. Well, we admit that this is the Government of the poor. But it has never been the conception of the Government of the poor to provide facilities and other amenities to the landlords and those who roll in luxuries at the cost of the peasants and tillers of the land. Poor and helpless people are never harassed and tormented in such a set up of Government. Today the Minister has narrated the functioning of the Government in ancient India. But through you, Sir, I would like to tell him that the legitimate rights of the people were never encroached upon in that form of government for being conferred on the rich section of the people. Perhaps this is a new convention adopted in the present-day world to appease the rich by squeezing the poor. Today the world is overwhelmed by the people who believe in the theory of the bull having given birth to a colt. They are the champions of a principle which aims at snatching away from the underdog what he has for being distributed to the people living in glass houses. Anyhow, Sir, I assure you of my full support if they introduce a piece of legislation which really seeks to benefit the poor. As a matter of fact, we brought forth a resolution in this connection for discussion on the floor of the House, but they said that since it was *ultra vires* of the constitution for the government to acquire any property without the payment of adequate compensation the Government could not agree to it. Apart from this we did table an amendment during the course of discussion on the Gram Panchayat Bill seeking to give away 'Shamilat' lands to Harijans but as ill-luck would have it, no heed was paid to it by the government and it was turned down with the remarks that it involved the question of compensation. I would like to enquire what has happened to the question of compensation today ? Today the trend of circumstances is such that the Government seem to be determined to deprive the peasants of their lands so as to give them to those capitalists, zamindars and mahajans who have all along been squeezing the former for the last 200 years. What a novel and fine example of justice have they set! On the one hand they proclaim that they want to build a Punjab in which the poor may be uplifted and the rich brought down, on the other in actual practice the laws introduced by them in this august House are diametrically opposed to their own professions. Notwithstanding the high-handedness that is being perpetrated on the poor section of the masses through this Bill, by the snatching away of their lands which are subsequently to be transferred to the rich, how surprising it is that this entire drama is being played in the name of dispensing benefit to the Harijans! Let me make it clear, Sir, that we would not let injustice be meted out to these backward people. When have we disassociated ourselves from ameliorating their lot and raising their standard in society ? But what has the Government done for them ? You conferred upon them the title of Lambardar and pronounced them zamindars with no land in their possession. In actual practice, through various pieces of legislation the Government have provided amenities and comforts only to the people who have built 'havelis' in the villages without investing even a single penny on their construction.

Let them tell me whether Manu Maharaj laid down the different castes for nothing ? Will the mere fact of not recording their respective castes in the revenue records establish cordial relations between the Brahmins and the Harijans ? I would like to know what definite headway is this particular step on the part of the Government likely to make in future together with the

progress that has so far been recorded in this respect. I would like to know how the mere pronouncements of equality can establish good relations between the Harijans and the people of superior castes ? We would, of course, commend the Government's achievements provided they were to bring these people nearer to one another. We would really appreciate the Government's actions if it were to dispel all distinctions between the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the landlords, the capitalists and the Harijans. We would like to know the number of instances in which inter-caste marriages between the Brahmins and the Harijans might have taken place. Only the paper schemes would not achieve any progress. The time will tell the difference between the India of today and the India of tomorrow. But one thing I must say and that is that simply the sentimental speeches do not go to solve the numerous intricate problems that confront us today. We have rather repeatedly been crying at the door of the Government to afford some relief to the Harijans and those tillers of the land who pool all their resources and work hard day and night in the fields in order to reap the harvest of food for their consumption. If we study the case of the Shamilat lands minutely then it goes without saying that only the poor harijans and not the capitalists who roll in luxuries get their legitimate share in this particular type of land. But quite the contrary case is now being made out in this regard. It is now said that the Shamilat lands were the sole property of the landlords. It is extremely regretting to remark, Sir, that while making such an observation perhaps the hon. Members adorning the Treasury Benches forget that the peasants and the tenants are the same people who have been paying and will continue to pay the land revenue accruing on these lands for the last two centuries. The revenue records clearly bear testimony to my observation. We would rather be glad if instead of transferring them to the big landlords the Shamilat lands were placed at the disposal of the Gram Panchayats. But the amount of money that has been raised from us for the last two hundred years must at least be refunded to us. That amount can conveniently be realised from the Shahukars to whom the lands are contemplated to be transferred.

Minister for Public Works : But you have already pampered them.

Shri Sri Chand : Moreover, we subscribe all right to whatever the Government say with regard to improving their plight and uplifting their standard. But we do not agree to the provisions of this particular Bill which contemplates to provide more rights to the rich after having taken them from the poor. This is absolutely an unjustified and undemocratic step which I oppose tooth and nail.

Professor Sher Singh (Jhajjar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the Bill which has been introduced in this House by the Minister for Development was, as a matter of fact, long awaited. Today I heartily felicitate the Minister for the very fine introductory remarks which he has been pleased to make while commending the Bill to the House. (*Cheers*). An hon. Member from the Opposition has just concluded his speech. He has advanced an argument that through this Bill the Government contemplates conferring further rights on the rich after taking the same from the poor. This is totally an uncalled for charge. In reply to this I would simply observe that they want the poor to be constantly exploited, intimidated and suppressed. They have always been treating the Harijans as members of a low caste. They have never allowed them to come near them. They have always kept them at an arm's length. Today again in

[Professor Sher Singh]
the garb of the propaganda launched in the name of mahajans and shahukars they want to let this suppressed section of society be subjected to further oppression. After all, our Harijan brethren are also the sons of this very land. They enjoy equal rights with others to ask for their legitimate privileges being given to them. Since they have been born on this soil, Mother India is their mother as well. They have also stood shoulder to shoulder with others and have laid down their lives in order to free the country from the shackles of slavery. Now when India has achieved independence, they are within their rights to procure their due share in the new set up of the State. As a matter of fact, it does not behove a democratic country to deny legitimate rights to a particular section of the community.

Sir, it has been observed, that the Members from the Opposition generally advance a set argument, namely, that the urbanites have a temptation to dominate over the ruralites by creating rifts and disputes amongst the latter. Therefore, we have today got a glorious opportunity to dispel their differences—if their exist any—and promote harmony and amity amongst them. It is high time that equalities were stimulated within all sections, viz; peasants, labour, tenants, Harijans, etc., which inhabit the villages. They should rather publicly invite the Harijans to allow them equal share in the Shamilat lands. They should pronounce that all the people living on this land are alike and that they wield equal right and opportunity over land. They should allow them to graze their cattle on these common lands. They should confer upon them the privilege to keep their cattle on such lands. They should permit them to take away wood from the common lands for their domestic consumption. If all these declarations were made by the opposition with an open heart today then there remains not even an iota of doubt that the Harijans will take no time to come near to them. If on the one hand they advocate the theories of mahajans, zamindars *vs.* non-zamindars and the bigs *vs.* the smalls and on the other wish the ruralites not to run the race with one another, then how can these two antagonistic things happen at one and the same time. I would, through you, Sir, like the hon. Members of the Opposition either to choose the former course of action or if they really have got a soft corner in their heart for them, then they should immediately take them within their fold, give them equal status and the treatment that a brother gives to his brother. If they treat them accordingly, they are sure to join their ranks. As a matter of fact, veritable life of love and affection can be stimulated in the villages only if an atmosphere of perfect cordiality and goodwill is created there. Unless proper and adequate attention is paid to the rural needs, unless the scheduled caste people are granted their legitimate rights, these complaints will go on increasing.

The Bill which the Minister for Development has introduced in this House is calculated to establish an atmosphere of benevolence, cordiality and fellow feeling in the villages. I feel that this is such a fine piece of legislation as needs to be hailed by all the members of the House particularly the Members of the Opposition who charge our Party with creating hurdles in the promotion of an atmosphere of understanding among the villagers. They should admire it unreservedly. Today if they oppose this Bill, the masses at large will definitely think that to strengthen the roots of the controversy between the zamindars and non-zamindars is the aim of only the people who, in the name of the zamindars, want to perpetuate the exploitation and suppression of the Harijans. In the circumstances, I would urge upon them kindly to do away with this kind of argument and welcome this Bill in right earnest. They should confer equal fraternal status on the Harijans who have since long

been the target of suppression and oppression. They should review the entire situation obtaining in the country in its clear perspective and evolve some easy solution for their settlement of these depressed people. With these words, Sir, I fervently support this Bill.

Sardar Wazir Singh (Delhon) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. speaker, as usual the hon. Minister for Development has delivered a very sentimental speech but it lacked argument. He referred to the conditions in India before and after attainment of freedom but it appears that he is not fully aware of the background of the social set up of the rural people. Mr. Speaker, let us examine how the question of proprietors and non-proprietors arises in the villages. At some time in the long past ten or twenty persons settled on some barren tract of land and gradually it developed into a village. Those first settlers became the proprietors but they allowed some Harijans, artisans and blacksmiths to settle there for helping them in cultivation on the con dition that if they migrated to some other village they could not sell the lands on which they were settled. This was done to prevent them from migrating from one village to another after selling their lands in the villages they left. This is the background of the structure of rural society. As stated by my hon. Friend Shri Sri Chand nobody is opposed to giving some rights to Harijans, artisans and blacksmiths. The Members of the Opposition desire that these people should be given full rights in the shamilat lands. These persons help the agriculturists in cultivating their lands. We, however, object to the plea put forward by Professor Sher Singh and others who profess to be sympathisers of the Harijans and say that as the country had become free these people should be given full rights. I wish to make it clear that we have greater regard for the Harijans but the Government is following the policy of divide and rule. It wants to estrange the Harijans from others. This is not proper on the part of the Government. The hon. Development Minister said that the Harijans pleaded that the country had become free but they had not felt its effect. In my opinion, eighty five per cent of people who live in the villages feel that it is not they but the urban people who had gained freedom. I desire that those Harijans who helped in cultivation should be given righ:s in pastures, shamilat lands and to other places also. At the same time I have two objections in this connection. My objection is legal. Has the hon. Minister for Development consulted his law Department to ascertain if one person's rights can be transferred to another without payment of compensation? I am opposing this measure. If there be some legal hitch that can be overcome by providing for payments of nominal amount of compensation. Under this Bill these rights are being given to those persons also who did moneylending in the villages and sucked the blood of the poor villagers. I am of the view that these rights must be given to those whose residence in the villages is essential and who help in cultivating land. In reality the Government wishes to help others on the plea of helping poor persons. The Ministers do not mean what they say in this House.

Sardar Gurbanta Singh (Adampur) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, before now the Harijans had to face this difficulty that they had perforce to leave villages and come to towns because they were not allowed to graze their cattle there. I would submit that in the neighbourhood of village Sakhipur and Adampur many zamindars had left their own lands and got the shamilat lands allotted in their favour because that land was situated near the mohalla of Harijans. Sir, my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sri Chand has now left his seat beacuse this Bill is not according to his wishes. He does not like that the Harijans in villages should make any progress. I whole-heartedly congratulate the Government on bringing forward this Bill before the House. By this legislation the

[Sardar Gurbanta Singh]

Harijans who live in villages will be able to heave a sigh of relief and in future they will not be forced to migrate to towns. Previously, whenever any Harijan went out of his village in quest of a job his house was occupied by the zamindars who never relinquished possession of that house on his return. Now according to this Bill they will be made the proprietors of the houses occupied by them. They will however be able to eke out their livelihood by selling milk or weaving cloth. In their attempt to circumvent the provision of this law the zamindars have tried to distribute their grazing lands. I would, therefore, suggest that this Act may be enforced with retrospective effect so as to cover the last five or seven years.

Sardar Darshan Singh (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have risen to support this Bill. I understand the difficulties of Harijans more than anybody else. The zamindars used to extract 'begar' from them in villages and these poor people had been put to many other difficulties. We had thought that with the coming into power of the Congress Government we will get equal rights but what we find is that after the attainment of independence we could not even graze our cattle on the village lands. We have been feeling that we are not free and are still under the bondage of slavery. Sir, in the year 1949 I voiced the grievances of the labourers in a meeting organised by the Kisan-Sabha and I was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. At that time also my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh was in the cabinet. It is strange that even in the regime of the Congress Government we are not allowed to put demands before the public. The Mazdoor Kisan Sabha in villages has struggled hard and it is on account of their efforts that the Government has been compelled to bring up this Bill before the House. This is a very useful measure and I hope that in future also the Government will continue to earn the credit of bringing such measures before the house.

Bhagat Guran Das Hans (Hoshiarpur) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have risen to congratulate the hon. Minister on his bringing up this Bill before the House. Now the Harijans will be able to keep their heads high with pride and would be able to say to the people that they can lead a self-respecting life hereafter. My hon. Friend has remarked that the hon. Minister has made a sentimental speech. If he were a Harijan he would have certainly said that the hon. Minister has a great sympathy for the Harijans. Another friend has said that although Government professes to have great sympathy for the Harijans yet it is only a lip sympathy and the Government has taken no concrete steps to ameliorate their hard lot. At present their helpless condition can be gauged from the fact that whenever general elections are held the zamindars openly threaten them that if they (Harijans) do not cast their votes in favour of the candidate of their choice they will not be allowed to enter their houses. But they realised their duty and cast their votes in favour of the Congress candidates. An hon. Member had made a suggestion that if the people of other communities begin to marry their sons and daughters in the families of Harijans, nobody would then look down upon the Harijans. I would say that we are not at all anxious to contract marriages in the families of other communities but want that better treatment be accorded to us and justice be done to us. If Harijans are treated as sub-human beings then not to say of marriages even nobody will like to talk to them. Every young man would like to enter into matrimonial alliance with the girl whose parents enjoy high position and status in life. Everybody knows that Dr. Ambedkar is married to a girl of a Brahmin family. The Government should take

steps to improve their conditions. I think the Government is following in the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi. In villages the Harijans are being given their rights and in cities they are being absorbed in Government services. If the condition of Harijans improves then even respectable people would like to live in the mohallas of Harijans. I feel grateful to the hon. Minister for bringing up such a Bill before the House.

Sardar Mukhtiar Singh (Moga-Dharmkot) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the principle underlying this Bill is no doubt good but I am afraid the same cannot be said about the intentions of the Government towrads the Harijans. I was surprised to find the hon. Minister talking of his great concern for the welfare of the Harijans. After all, what great privilege is being conferred upon them? The previous Congress Ministry had taken great pride over giving the Harijans the right to use in the restaurants the same tumblers as were used by customers belonging to other Communities. What has this Government done for them? Has it made arrangement for opening a free mess for the Harijans?

Bhagat Guran Dass Hans : No Community can progress by taking meals at a free mess.

Sardar Mukhtiar Singh : But is it not a fact that before becoming a legislator, the hon. Member himself was living on some body's charity? The fact of the matter is that these small concessions are being given to the Harijans because Panchayat and Municipal elections are in the offing. Even without the enactment of this measure, the Harijans would have succeeded in taking possession of the *shamilats* and the lands under village pools.

Master Gurbanta Singh has remarked that 95 per cent of the Harijans are denizens of villages. May I ask him what this Government has done for them. Is it not a fact that even before the advent of Swarajya they used to rear buffaloes and other cattle and earn a living for themselves? We shall be convinced of the sincerity of this Government when in every one of its Departments the Harijans will be holding 19 per cent of the total number of posts. If their representation in services is to be made up by giving them the posts of Patwaris, they will not be able to progress. They are not so keen on sharing the proprietorship of village Shamilats, pools and dunghills. If the Government really wants them to live like human beings, it should give them their due share in services.

May I ask my brethren who have been returned on the Congress tickets if they too can have an independent party of their own. Can they call them selves as members of the Harijans' party. In legal phraseology, the word 'Harijan' is absolutely unknown. It has no legal meaning. Had they declared in their nomination papers that they belonged to the Harijan party, these would have been rejected. Legally speaking, there is no such party.

In the end, I would urge that the proposed concessions should be given only to those Harijans who live in rural areas and not to those who are residents of Simla and other towns.

Shri Sant Ram (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the Government has done well to introduce a measure which seeks to confer upon the Harijans a share in the village Shamilats and the rights of proprietorship of the land on which they have been living for centuries in houses built by themselves. I congratulate it on this boldness. For centuries, the rural capitalists or in other words the Jagirdars have been oppressing the Harijans and causing them untold

[Shri Sant Ram]

misery. Every land-owner took for granted the services of the Harijans living in his village whenever he had to entertain a guest. If a Harijan did not present himself at 4 a.m. at the residence of the land-owner to carry his guest's luggage to the railway station, he was asked to remove the debris of his house and vacate the land. By bringing forward this Bill, the Congress Government has taken an important step to free the Harijans from centuries-old slavery and forced labour and, therefore, it deserves to be congratulated.

My hon. Friend Sardar Darshan Singh has referred to kisan movements. I am also a ruralite. So far as I know, the Harijans have never taken part in any such movement . If any Harijan did take part in kisan movements, it was because he himself was an owner of land.

The Congress has been in favour of granting these rights to the Harijans since very long. A resolution to this effect was adopted by the previous Assembly also. At that time a Jagirdar Member had objected to its adoption on the ground that it would give rise to disputes between the landlords and the Harijans. Sir, I hope you will allow me to continue my speech tomorrow.

The Assembly, then, adjourned till 2 *p. m. on Thursday, the* 16*th April* 1953.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

16th April, 1953.

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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Thursday, 16th April, 1953

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 16*th April*, 1953

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker(Dr. Satya Pal) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

FAMINE CONDITIONS IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

*1837. **Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) whether there is any area in the Hissar District where famine conditions still exist; if so, the name of those villages together with the nature of the conditions prevailing there ;

(b) the steps taken so far by the Government to combat the miseries of famine in the said District ?

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon : (a) Yes, there are 281 villages (list enclosed) where scarcity conditions still exist. The nature of conditions differ in the case of each village.

(b) The steps being taken by the State Government are as under :—

1. Pond-digging work where canal digging is not possible.
2. Canal digging work.
3. Spinning work.
4. Drinking water arrangements in shape of :—

(a) Establishment of piaos.

(b) Filling of ponds.

(c) Supply of water through P. W. D's tanker, goods train and by a special engine.

List of villages affected by scarcity conditions in Sirsa Sub-Division.

[Minister for Development]

Field Kanungo, Sirsa	*Field Kanungo, Rania*
1. Jogewala.	66. Hindi Khera.
2. Chaharwala.	67. Ellenabad.
3. Rampura.	68. Dhani Jatan.
4. Kagdana.	69. Rania.
5. Kumharia.	70. Balasar.
6. Kheria.	71. Fatehpuria.
7. Rajpura Sani.	72. Mohammadpuria.
8. Gosaina.	73. Mangalia.
9. Jasania.	74. Nanunwana.
10. Gigorani.	75. Talwara Khurd.
11. Shahpuria.	76. Thoparia.
12. Shakar Mandori.	77. Mirzapur.
13. Tarkanwali.	78. Bani.
14. Ganjia Rupana.	79. Mithanpur.
15. Rupana Bishnoian.	80. Karamsana.
16. Nehrana.	81. Nimla.
17. Narain Khera.	82. Dholpalia.
18. Rajpura Keranwali.	83. Berawal Khurd.
19. Nehranwali.	84. Jagmalera.
20. Makho Sheoran.	85. Chachal Kotli.
21. Natho Sari Khurd.	86. Bharolanwali.
22. Nathosari Kalan.	87. Alipur.
23. Hazira.	88. Nikaura.
24. Rampira Dhillanwala.	89. Kutta Badh.
25. Joryan.	90. Himayun Khera.
26. Rupawas.	91. Sheikhu Khera.
27. Ludesar.	92. Musli.
28. Rupana.	93. Kotli.
29. Manak Dewan.	94. Kishanpura.
30. Darba Kalan.	95. Poharka.
31. Randhawa.	96. Khari Surera.
32. Nirban.	97. Mithi Surera.
33. Raipur.	98. Patti Kirpal.
34. Birasari.	99. Moju Khera.
35. Kutiana.	100. Budhi Mari.
36. Mamal.	101. Mamera.
37. Dhukra.	102. Amritsar.
38. Baruwali Doyam.	103. Kariwali.
39. Gudia Khera.	104. Harni Khurd.
40. Bakarianwali.	105. Damdama alias Kunjurwala.
41. Choburja.	106. Abholi.
42. Dhingtania.	107. Ottu.
43. Arniwali.	108. Gidranwali.
44. Mexia Khera.	109. Mauj Din.
45. Ali Mohammad.	110. Ferozabad.
46. Chadewal.	111. Umedpura.
47. Khundanwali.	112. Mehna Khera.
48. Phulkan.	113. Chilakani Dhab.
49. Kanwarpura.	114. Bhuratwala.
50. Kasumbhi.	115. Membar Khera.
51. Chak Suchan.	116. Mattuwala
52. Tajjia Khera.	117. Ahmemadpur, Darewala
53. Sahuwala.	118. Dodika.
54. Sherpura.	119. Dhudianwali.
55. Gadli.	120. Bahiya.
56. Kukarthana.	121. Keharwala.
57. Ding.	122. Sadewala.
58. Baruwali Awwal.	123. Naiwala.
59. Darbi.	124. Sainpal.
60. Sanghar Sarishtawala.	125. Kaluwana.
61. Bharuka.	126. Nathodar.
62. Mangala.	127. Khayan Nepparpur.
63. Abut Garh.	128. Khai Sher Garh.
64. Modia Khera.	129. Pir Khera.
65. Kesan Khera.	

List of villages affected by scarcity conditions in Sirsa Sub-Division—concld

Field Kanungo, Rori—contd.

130. Bahuna.
131. Kharian
132. Kussar.
133. Ghoranwali.
134. Gandran.
135. Chakkan.
136. Dhotar.
137. Sultanpuria.
138. Darewala.
139. Bukhara Khera.
140. Jodhpuria.
141. Fatehpur Nemat Khan.
142. Sheikhupur.
143. Karam Garh.
144. Sahuwala.
145. Bhangu.
146. Chhatarian.
147. Burj Bhangu.
148. Panjuwana.
149. Dhaban.
150. Bap.
151. Jhiri.
152. Chanmal.
153. Kheraka.
154. Bansudhar.
155. Mirpur.
156. Ahmedpur.
157. Jhurar Nali.
158. Neza Dalla Kalan.
159. Kalanyan.
160. Dhanur.
161. Jhunpura.
162. Saharan.
163. Farwain.
164. Nagoki.
165. Kararkot.
166. Budha Bhana.
167. Burj Karamgarh.

Field Kanungo Rori—concld

168. Pinhari.
169. Malhari.
170. Matter.
171. Ranga.
172. Musahibawal.
173. Lehnganwala.
174. Sukhchain.
175. Taruwana.
176. Tilokawala.

Field Kanungo, Dabwali.

177. Jandwala Bishonoian.
178. Asa Khera.
179. Chautala.
180. Bharu Khera.
181. Teja Khera.
182. Abub Shahr.
183. Lohagarh.
184. Munanwali.
185. Ganga.
186. Sanwat Khera.
187. Khuian Malkana.
188. Dewan Khera.
189. Mauj Garh.
190. Sukheranwala.
191. Soba wala.
192. Khitranwan.
193. Kosankhera.
194. Biraowala Guda.
195. Saddwala.
196. Khiowali.
197. Karam Sana.
198. Buchehar.
199. Mochiwali.
200. Rupawali.
201. Sahuwala
202. Rajpura
203. Takhat Mal.

Revised list of villages under scarcity conditions in Fatehabad Tehsil

1. Ramsara.
2. Dhri.
3. Jandwala.
4. Dhabi Khurd.
5. Gadli.
6. Chuli Khurd.
7. Chuli Kalan.
8. Chuli Bagarian.
9. Khabra Kalan.
10. Dhabi Kalan.
11. Khabra Khurd.
12. Thuyan.
13. Ban Manderi.
14. Pili Mandori.
15. Mahuwala.
16. Malhar.
17. Dayyar.
18. Bhattu Kalan.
19. Suli Khera.
20. Alipur Barota.
21. Avalki.
22. Phul.
23. Birabanddil.
24. Madh.
25. Ganda.
26. Hanspur.
27. Barolanwali.
28. Khundan.
29. Nakta.
30. Manakpur.
31. Bahbalpur.
32. Thari.
33. Nagpur.
34. Bhattu Kalan.
35. Lali.
36. Jallopur.
37. Bharpur.
38. Raytta Khera.
39. Dhingsra.
40. Hijeranwal Kallan.

[Minister for Development]

Revised List of scarcity affected villages of Bhiwani Tehsil

1.	Bapora.	7.	Mitathal.
2.	Rajpura Kharkheri.	8.	Gujjiani.
3.	Prem Nagar (Khusra formerly)	9.	Bhiwani Lohar.
4.	Tigrana.	10.	Bhiwani Johnpal.
5.	Tigri.	11.	Dinod.
6.	Ghuskani.		

List of villages where Land Revenue has been suspended in part or full falling under scarcity conditions relating to Hissar Tehsil

1.	Burak.	15.	Khara Barwala.
2.	Bandheri.	16.	Mohal Sarai.
3.	Daroli.	16-A	Moth Sarai.
4.	Adampur.	17.	Ladwi.
5.	Khohli.	18.	Bhiwani Rechelan.
6.	Pattan.	19.	Kanhori.
7.	Nathuwana (Bachiragh).	20.	Nangli.
8.	Hindwan.	21.	Bhimanwala.
9.	Kumbha Khera.	22.	Dhasul Kallan.
10.	Kamalwala.	23.	Gajuwala.
11.	Sambelwala.	24.	Nangla.
12.	Ghabipur.	25.	Pirthla.
13.	Zabtawala.	26.	Patta.
14.	Haiderwala.	27.	Balijawali.

Shri Ram Kishan : From the reply given by the hon. Minister, it appears that out of 281 villages the realization of land revenue has been suspended in 27 villages. May I know why the payment of land revenue has not been suspended in 254 villages ?

Chief Minister : The payment of land revenue is suspended in certain special circumstances. Such a step is taken by the Government only when there is ample justification for doing so.

Shri Ram Kishan : The scarcity conditions prevail in Bhiwani Tehsil. May I Know why the payment of land revenue has not been suspended there ?

Chief Minister : The conditions in that Tehsil do not warrant the suspension of land revenue. The Government have issued instructions to its officers that payment of land revenue be suspended in the districts where acute scarcity conditions exist.

EVACUEE CINEMAS IN JULLUNDUR CITY.

*1835. **Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether there are any evacuee cinemas lying vacant in Jullundur City ; if so, the reasons, if any, for not leasing out the said cinemas to any one so far ?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (1) There are two incomplete cinema buildings in Jullundur City, popularly known as 'Ghulam Dastgir Cinema' and 'Qazi Cinema' which would not be leased out as such in the present conditions.

(2) The former stands allotted to the District Rent Officer, Jullundur and the Jullundur Improvement Trust. The latter is lying vacant although a part of it is in unauthorized occupation of Hakim Mehar who is being served with a notice to vacate the same.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the reasons for which the evacuee cinemas were not leased out to any one although many applications were received by the Custodian for the allotment of such cinemas ?

Minister : As the cinemas were incomplete so these could not be leased out. The Government had issued instructions that such cinemas be leased out like the industrial establishments. An estimate of Rs 2,86,000 was prepared for the repairs of these cinemas but the Government of India did not approve of the incurring of such expenditure.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE ACT, 1948 IN THE STATE

***1836. Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to State—

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, has been enforced in the State ; if so, the date thereof together with the names of places where this scheme is being worked out under this Act ;
(b) the number of employees who have taken benefit so far under this scheme regarding security against sickness, maternity and employment injury ?

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : (a) Not yet.
(b) Does not arise.

Shri Ram Kishan : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether there has been any correspondence between our Government and the Government of India on this subject ?

Minister : Yes.

Shri Ram Kishan : May I know when and where this Act will be put into force ?

Minister : This Act will be enforced in Verka and Chheharta in Amritsar District, Ludhiana, Ferozepore, Ambala City and Cantonment and Bhiwani. The employees will get maternity benefit, medical benefit, disablement benefit, dependent's benefit.

Shri Ram Kishan : May I know why this Act is not being enforced in the industrial towns like Jullundur, Batala and Jagadhri ?

Minister : This Act is being enforced at such places where the labour problem is acute.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Sir, I beg to ask for leave of the House to make a motion for an adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, illegal harassment and beatings by the mounted Police of innocent persons of Village Sambi, P. S. Neesing, District Karnal, on 14th April 1953.

Mr. Speaker : Has the hon. Chief Minister to say anything about it ?

Chief Minister : Sir, I submit that there has been no illegal harassment caused to the people. According to the information that has reached me I can say that this matter can be successfully tackled under the normal course of law. As a matter of fact, after having received the adjournment motion, given notice of by Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina, the Superintendent of Police, Karnal was telephonically contacted. He has given the following information in connection with the above case:

There had been difference over 'batai' between the landlords and tenants of Village Sambi, because the tenants were giving the landlords 1/4th only of the produce and not 1/3rd. The landlords applied to the Deputy Commissioner on 9th April 1953, to get the matter settled. The Deputy Commissioner sent the application to S.H.O. Nissang.S.H.O. Nissang, being unwell, directed the Assistant Sub-Inspector to go on the spot. The A. S. I. accompanied by the Mounted Police went to the spot on the 14th. The tenants agreed to give 1/3rd of the produce, but wanted it to be reduced to 1/4th for future. One Gian Singh, Communist, had been instigating the tenants to give the landlords only 1/4th of the produce. He intervened at this stage again. Upon this the Assistant Sub-Inspector advised both the parties to see the S. H. O. who was expected to be at the neighbouring village, Armana. The aforementioned Gian Singh, again interfered and prevented the parties from seeing the S. H. O. The Assistant Sub-Inspector went back. There was no harassment or beating to either the Assistant Sub-Inspector or any other Member of the Police party, nor were any arrests made.

The Superintendent of Police has now directed a gazetted officer to enquire into the matter and send a detailed report.

Sir, my submission is that the law and order machinery is performing its day-to-day functions there. The trouble was created by an agent provocateur. No illegal act or harassment has been committed by any Government official.

Mr. Speaker : After hearing the Chief Minister, I rule the motion out of order.

WALK-OUT OF AN HON. MEMBER FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER AND SPEAKER'S OBSERVATIONS THEREON.

Sardar Khem Singh : Sir, I am sorry to find that the resolution relating to the condition of the scheduled castes is not going to be taken up today. As a protest, I stage a walk-out.

Mr. Speaker : I am also sorry to find that some of the hon. Member are unacquainted with the Rules of Procedure of their own House. Under the Rules, two kinds of business other than official, namely, Bills and Resolutions, can be transacted on Thursdays. It has generally been seen that almost the whole of the time is taken up with the consideration of the Resolutions and no time is left for the consideration of the Bills. It is in view of the fact that two Bills introduced by Shrimati Sita Devi have been pending since very long that I have decided to allot today for the consideration of Bills only. Had Bills and Resolutions both been placed on today's agenda, as usual there would have been left little time for the former. I may inform the House that if any time is left after the consideration of the Bills is over, the hon. Chief Minister proposes that it may be utilized for transacting Government business.

I concede that the hon. Members who stage a walk-out are within their rights but it does not behove any one to do so without any rhyme or reason or without giving the matter a moment's thought. It would have been better if before staging a walk-out, the hon. Member had cared to get information about the Rules from the Secretary.

Chief Minister : Sir, with your permission, I want to make my position clear so that I might not be misunderstood by the Opposition Party. Sir, I had simply requested that if the non-official business set out in to-day's agenda was completed earlier, you might kindly relax the rules and permit discussion on the Government Bills during the remaining time. With due respect, I would like to say that I did not suggest that non-official Resolutions should not be included in the Agenda. I have given this explanation so that the Opposition Party might not labour under the misapprehension that since I wanted the Government business to be taken up to-day, you did not permit the inclusion of non-official Resolutions in to-day's agenda.

Mr. Speaker : The Opposition Party is very charitable and I think the Chief Minister need not worry about that.

Secondly, I am within my rights and am competent under the proviso to Rule 23(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly to issue a direction that only private Member's Bills should be taken up on a certain "non-official" day.

THE PUNJAB PREVENTION OF HINDU BIGAMOUS MARRIAGES BILL, 1952.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Jullundur City, South-east) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

> That the Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill, 1952, be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, first of all I want to thank you for giving me an opportunity to move this Bill which has been hanging fire for quite a few years for the consideration of the House. I think it will not be out of place to remind the House of the fact that this Bill was introduced by me in the previous Assembly, was then sent by it for circulation to elicit public opinion and was later on referred to a Select Committee but ultimately that Assembly was dissolved and it could not be put on the statute book. It would have certainly continued to hang fire if the old procedure of transacting non-official business had continued to be followed. The manner in which the hon. Speaker has tried to protect the rights of the women by allowing me to move this Bill for the consideration of the House will I think be properly appreciated by the hon. Members of the House as also the public outside when tomorrow they will read the report of to-day's proceedings in the newspapers. He has acted in a manner befitting the Speaker of a legislature of an independent country.

I do not intend to deliver a lengthy speech on this occasion. Most of the hon. Members especially the old ones know quite well my views on the subject which I have expressed in the various speeches delivered by me from time to time. Even, otherwise too, consisting as this House does of mostly educated and sensible persons, it need hardly be reminded of the importance of the problem with which this Bill seeks to deal. None can deny that even after the advent of independence there is a feeling among the women community that their emancipation is yet to come, that they have not been given their legitimate rights or rightful position

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

in society. The proof of this is furnished by the fact that the number of lady members in this house is the same as it was in the previous Assembly i.e, three out of a total of 126. This shows that even after the attainment of independence much attention has not been paid towards uplifting the status of women or guaranteeing their due rights to them. There is in my opinion no evil greater than contracting a second marriage in the life-time of a wife. It is owing to this evil that thousands of our poor sisters are living in immense misery. Sir, you must be aware of such cases· You may have even read in the newspapers of women committing suicides not finding it possible to live under conditions created by their husbands' contracting a second marriage. In olden days people had an implicit faith in the 'pind' ceremony and for this reason too they considered it essential to contract a second marriage in the absenee of a male issue from the first. Now times have changed and people have ceased to have faith in such things.

Sir, you will be surprised to hear that not to speak of having an issue or no issue, the position here is that there are people here who marry for the second time in spite of the fact that they have got as many as four children and have both sons and daughters. Now the question arises as to why they act like that? They think that, since there is no law to stop them from marrying for the second time in the lifetime of their first wives, they are free to marry as many wives as they like. Unfortunately, our social customs, laws and restrictions have lost their grip on our society to such an extent that they do not cause any fear in the minds of the people. They say that they would marry for the second time and they challenge anybody to stop them from the act.

Sir, I would like to tell you that the All India Women's Conference, Punjab Branch, has been considering all these things and it has been trying for the last five years continuously to put an end to this social evil. It has passed numerous resolutions in this connection at a number of conferences and the same have also been sent to the Government. On all these occasions, it has made appeals to the people also. But so far it has not been successful. Everyday, the members of the Women's Conference are informed of countless cases of the type in which young girls are deserted by their husbands just one year after their marriage and then those men wish to marry for the second time. When such facts are brought to our notice, we, the members of the Women's Conference, go to the house of the boy concerned and urge upon him not to ruin the life of the young girl. At some places, our requests are granted but in most of the cases we do not succeed. They ask us under what law we check them from contracting a second marriage. In this connection, our brethren from Amritsar know how much work is being done by our sisters over there. At some places, they have to resort to picketing, at others they have to sit in 'dharna' in protest against a second marriage. They have also to hear abuses at some places and have to make entreaties to the guardians of the boy to urge upon them not to marry him for the second time and thus ruin the life of the young girl. As they have no fear of any legal action, they seldom agree to what we say. When this is the state of affairs in our State, it becomes extremely necessary that this House should pass this Bill as soon as possible so that the women community may get rid of this social evil.

Then, Sir, the Bill that I have brought before the House is not a new thing. My hon. Brethren who are the members of this House will have read that the legislatures of Bombay, Baroda and Madras have already passed the Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill. This Bill is an exact copy of that Act. I think, my hon. Brethren will now have no objection passing this Bill. I may further tell in this connection that, when we go down after the sessions are over, the people complain to us why the members of the Assembly do not pass such a useful measure which aims at bringing social reform in our State. The reply, Sir, which I have to give to this complaint is that the majority of the members of the House are men and it is they who form the Government. And then the Bills are passed by votes. What we can do is to bring forth this Bill and to request our brethren to pass it. I think that the whole of this day can be devoted to these Bills in connection with the social reforms. There is unlimited time at our disposal. Let our brethren express their views on this Bill ; but after the discussion it should be passed.

Sir, my hon. Brethren will be aware that when Kamal Pasha came into power, he put an end to the evil custom of contracting more than one marriage. If you read our past history and especially the Ramayana, you will find that when Shri Ramchandra wanted to perform a Yagya after he had exiled Sita, he had to instal a gold image of Sita for the Yagya could not have been successfully completed without the presence of the wife. If the times then had been the same which we now have, new marriages would have taken place overnight. What I mean to say is that not only in other free countries, but even in our own country in the past, the women have enjoyed a high status and nobody married for the second time in the life-time of the first wife. I do not want to cite more instances on this subject lest somebody should be displeased. It is, of course, said that man and woman have equal status. But it is a thing for saying only. If you go to the villages of Ambala and Jullundur Divisions, you will find that the men there have got as many as two to three wives each. In this connection, I am reminded of an incident. Pandit Shri Ram is now not present here. He is aware that a big conference was held in Rohtak in which I too participated. After the conference was over, I enquired from the people as to how many marriages men contract over there. They replied in their own dialect that there was no limit to it (*Laughter*). I then enquired why men married so many wives. They replied that the zamindars have to do innumerable jobs and who should do all these jobs. I further enquired from them as to what would happen if the wives were to refuse to do these menial jobs of the labourers. At that time I was going in a cart. Waving his stick in the air, the zamindar replied that if they were to refuse, their bones would be crushed with the severe beating that they would get. What I want to submit is that even after the advent of independence in the country, the women are looked upon as the personal property of the men which can be bartered away. In towns the girls enjoy facilities for higher education and therefore they are conscious of their rights. But the condition of the general masses is the same which I have placed before you.

You, Sir, as well as the members of the House are aware that during the last elections our sisters did quite a lot of work. It is a hard fact that 60 per cent of the total votes polled were cast by women and only 40 per cent were cast by men. It is with the votes of the sisters that our brethren have been returned here in such large numbers.

Mr. Speaker : May I remind the hon. Lady Member that the Prevention of Bigamous Marriages Bill is under discussion and elections and casting of votes by women have no connection with this matter.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, I wanted to appeal to the sentiments of our brethren by mentioning this fact. I meant to say that we had voted for the Congress Party with the hope that a Congress Government would be formed and it would safeguard our rights and try to eliminate the social evils. Therefore by passing this Bill, our brethren will not benefit any individual but would improve thereby the condition of the sisters and daughters of our State.

I do not want to take more time of the House. But all the same, I would like to appeal to all my brethren to express their views freely and frankly and pass this Bill so that the people may realise that a legislative body can really help the women by removing their difficulties.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill, 1952, be taken into consideration at once.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Ramdas) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill, 1952, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of :

1. Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon,
2. Chaudhri Lahri Singh.
3. Sardar Mohan Singh.
4. Professor Sher Singh.
5. Chaudhri Dalbir Singh.
6. Professor Mota Singh.
7. Sardar Achhar Singh, Chhina.
8. Sardar Ajmer Singh.
9. Shri Ram Kishan.
10. Shri Abhai Singh.
11. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur.

with a direction to report by the 15th August 1953.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill which is now before us is a good Bill. Its aims and objects are praiseworthy. In fact justice has not been done to women for centuries and it is with a view to giving them fair treatment that this Bill has been brought forth. This Bill was brought forward a number of times during the regime of Dr. Gopi Chand but nobody cared for it. It is very unfortunate that even now no attention has been paid to it for about a year. I don't suspect the motives of the Cabinet because this Bill could not have been introduced if it did not like it. This Government wishes to be fair to women and that is why it has given time for this Bill.

Mr. Speaker : The credit for this should be given to me. The Government is not prepared to shoulder this responsibility. (*Laughter.*)

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit that in case the Government has genuine sympathy with women it should remove all the drafting mistakes in this Bill. I think this Bill should be redrafted and should not be passed in its present form. It should be sent to a Seleet Committee.

The next thing that I wish to point out is this that it would have been better if this Bill were passed on an All-India basis.

Mr. Speaker : We have nothing to do with that.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that this Bill if passed in its present form will suffer from a serious defect. If and when, a person wishes to marry again, he can go to another State for this purpose. In this way this Bill will not produce the desired effect. This is why I suggest that this Bill should be passed on an All-India basis or that at least some suitable restrictions should be imposed by the Select Committee.

The third thing is this that if we do justice to one sex, we have to give the same treatment to the other also. We should not be unfair to the other sex and impose disagreeable conditions on it. It, therefore, appears necessary that man should also be given the right of divorce as at times this is the only remedy left for him. (*Laughter*) Suppose, a man has no issue from his wife. I think he should be allowed to divorce that wife and marry again. Sometimes, husbands and wives cannot pull on. There appears to be no reason why they should be compelled to live together. Similarly, if a party suffers from some disease, he or she should be allowed to divorce the other.

The fourth thing is this. I think that it is just in one case out of ten thousand that a woman does not get justice. (*Bell rings*). As there is no time, I shall just mention one point and then finish. Among us, Jats, the custom of chadar-andazi prevails by virtue of which widows are allowed to remarry for purposes of succession, etc.

Mr. Speaker : On the one hand, you say that the Bill should be sent to a Select Committee and on the other you make so many suggestions. Will not the Select Committee be able to make necessary alterations if the Bill is sent to it.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : Sir, this Bill suffers from certain defects and I have pointed them out. I think it is necessary that it should be sent to the Select Committee to remove them.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Prevention of Hindi Bigamous Marriages Bill, 1952, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

1. Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon.
2. Chaudhri Lahri Singh.
3. Sardar Mohan Singh.
4. Professor Sher Singh.

[Mr. Speaker]

5. Chaudhri Dalbir Singh.

6. Professor Mota Singh.

7. Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina.

8. Sardar Ajmer Singh.

9. Shri Ram Kishan.

10. Shri Abhai Singh.

11. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur.

with a direction to report by the 15th August 1953.

Mr. Speaker : The Lady Member hasn't thought it fit to suggest that both the Lady Members should be taken into the Select Committee.

Khan Abdul Ghuffar Khan : Mr. Speaker, I have to make a submission. It is this that we are allowed to marry four wives but strangely enough some of the hon. Members who have two wives have been included in the Select Committee but I have been overlooked. (*Laughter.*)

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : I am unmarried and yet my name has been included. (*Renewed Laughter.*)

Shri D. D. Puri (Jagadhri) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I would try to deal with all the four arguments advanced by the hon. Lady Member Shrimati Parkash Kaur against the present Bill.

The first reason given by her is that the present Bill is not worth being considered in the House but she has not been able to point out any specific defect during her seven minutes' speech in support of her argument. Secondly, she is of the opinion that this Bill should have been passed by the Central Government. In this connection, I have to submit that as it has already been stated that some of the States have passed this measure, I hope keeping in view its benefit the remaining States would also pass it and the result would be the same as if this measure has been passed by the Central Government. I would, therefore, suggest that this piece of legislation should be passed as early as possible. Thirdly, she has proposed that we should adopt divorce system but public opinion can only be created in its favour if men are prevented to contract bigamous marriage. At present, men are allowed to contract several marriages whereas women do not have this privilege. Unless and until this distinction is removed, public opinion in favour of divorce cannot be created. It is laid down in our Constitution that:—

> The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.

Again our Constitution provides that :—

> The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing—
>
> (a) that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood.

According to our Constitution, men and women have equal right to vote and equal right of citizenship, but the law of the country is so defective that a man is permitted to marry a number of women but the women are treated just like sheep and cows. Mr. Speaker, I would like to elucidate this point with the help of English Law. According to Section 57 of Person Act, two marriages are included in felony and the meanings of the word 'felon' as given in the dictionary are cruel, fierce, terrible, wicked, atrocious, criminal. It prescribes 7 years' penal servitude or 2 years' rigorous imprisonment for bigamy. In America bigamy is defined as :—

> Being married shall marry any other person during the life of the former husband or wife, whether the second marriage shall have taken place in England or Ireland or elsewhere.

According to their law 'elsewhere' means anywhere in the world. In England, criminal jurisdiction is territorial. And exceptions are for bigamy, homicide and treason. It means that bigamy is compared with homicide and treason in that country. As our Constitution provides equal rights to men and women I suggest that men should be deprived of their right of contracting more than one marriage.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Women should not be allowed to marry more than once and on the other hand men should also be prevented from contracting bigamous marriages.

Shri Nand Lal (Karnal) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I have risen to support the Bill introduced by my sister Shrimati Sita Devi. It is quite an innocuous Bill. She is anxious to prevent men from contracting more than one marriage whereas I am of the opinion that men consider even one marriage as tedious and irksome and I am afraid that as the girls become highly educated they may not altogether give up the idea of contracting marriages (*laughter*). Her fear is that as there are only three hon. Lady Members in this House, men do not co-operate with them. I am of the opinion that when only three hon. Lady Members find it difficult to get each other's co-operation then if there were about 50 hon. Lady Members you would not have been able to conduct the proceedings of the House.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order, Sir. The language used by Shri Nand Lal is a sort of reflection on women-folk. I would, therefore, request that he should be asked to withdraw his words.

Maulvi Abdul Ghani Dar: Sir, Master Nand Lal has remarked that now there are only three hon. Lady Members in this House, if there had been 50 hon. Lady Members it would not have been possible for you to conduct the business of the House efficiently. He should withdraw his remarks.

Mr. Speaker : It is rather tantamount to paying compliments to the hon. Lady Members. (*Laughter*).

Shri Nand Lal : Mr. Speaker, there has been an insistent demand of the All-India Women Organization that men should be prevented from contracting bigamous marriages and it is a fact that in many cases women have been the worst sufferers. If the hon. Lady Member is satisfied by the enactment of this measure I have no intention to oppose it, although it has been pointed out by Shrimati Parkash Kaur that in spite of this Act men would not hesitate to contract bigamous marriages. They would go to Pepsu and Himachal and get themselves married there.

(*At this stage Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon was permitted to speak.*)

Shri Dev Raj Anand : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member (Sardar Gurdial Singh) is unmarried. Can he speak on this Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Will the hon. Member quote any rule under which an unmarried Member cannot be allowed to take part in the discussion ?

Shri Dev Raj Anand : How could he have the experience of married life?

Shri Ram Chandra Comrade: He lacks experience, Sir.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon (Jhabal) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, I can advance only such arguments as may be advanced by the 'have—nots' against the 'haves'. Shrimati Sita Devi is anxious to prevent men from contracting bigamous marriages but I am not willing to get myself married even once. (*Laughter*). There are many shortcomings in this Bill which as a matter of fact should not exist in a Bill which is being introduced in a progressive State like ours. I agree to the principle on which this Bill has been drafted but in reality it seeks to protect the rights of women only and no attention has been paid to safeguard the interests of men. No solution has been provided for the complications which may arise in the case of an insane, insolvent, invalid and a barren woman. Divorce would be necessary to dissolve the marriage contract. I, therefore, suggest that instead of enacting it so hurriedly it should be sent to the Select Committee for its consideration and opinion. I am of the opinion that the conditions in the Punjab are absolutely unique and that, therefore, this Bill should be referred to the public so that the people may be able to express their opinions on it. If public opinion is not elicited on the measure, the people may resent it. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh appears to be very glad to see me opposing this Bill but I wish to point out to him that my reasons for opposing the measure are very different from those for which he is opposed to it.

Shri Daulat Ram (Kaithal) : Sir, I wholeheartedly support the Bill and oppose the amendment moved by Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur. There is no gainsaying the fact that the human society is moving progressively and it is necessary that the Hindu Society should also keep abreast of this progressive age and understand the spirit underlying it. Since the stagnant waters breed mosquitoes and disease, and running waters always remain pure, the Hindu society, if it wants to remain pure, must not remain static. It must move with the times. If we go into the aims and objects of this Bill deeply, we will realise that it is high time that we brought this measure on the Statute Book immediately. I would, therefore, like to give some reasons in support of my argument.

Firstly, the domestic life in the Hindu Society is miserable and beyond endurance.

Mr. Speaker : I hope the hon. Member is not narrating his own personal experience (*Laughter*).

Shri Daulat Ram : Sir, you may take it in any way. I was just going to tell what type of domestic life in the Hindu society was.

Well, Sir, the atmosphere that prevails in most of the families of those persons who have contracted bigamous marriages is most unhappy. It is but natural that a mother should love her children and she would not like to cast even an affectionate or parental glance at the children of others. The children of one wife are always at logger-heads with those of the other. It does not matter if their disputes are confined to the four walls of the house but the petty disputes of the children often exasperate their respective mothers and sometimes the flames of anger are fanned to such a degree that an internecine feud ensues leading to litigation. So, the two wives of a person living under the same roof always quarrel; thereby creating troubles, discordance and uneasiness in that house and the condition of that family, if I may say so, becomes indescribably sad and miserable. It is, therefore, extremely necessary that this sort of sickening atmosphere should be wiped out.

Another cogent reason calling for the immediate passage of this Bill is this. Everyone knows that the standard of living of a common man is very low. If a man during his life-time marries two or three ladies—all—living he puts himself in hot waters because with his meagre income of one hundred rupees or even less, he is expected to feed five or six mouths or even more. It is obvious that with the increase in the number of mouths, he will be lowering his standard of living still further. It goes without saying that the infant mortality, low average life, tuberculosis and other innumerable diseases are the direct outcome of our low standard of living.

Thirdly, a girl is never born inferior to a boy. This fact must be taken into consideration. You are no doubt aware, Sir, that women are working shoulder to shoulder with men in each and every phase of life. It is a thousand pities that although we are never tired of appreciating grandiloquently their brilliance or intellect, etc., yet we are not prepared to accord them equal rights or human treatment which this measure seeks to confer on them.

That society is worth-condemning which grants an inferior status to the ladies or which wants to keep the women under the thrall of men. Such a society will never rise and the salvation would be far from those who constitute such society.

Fourthly, if a man marries two or three girls, he indirectly creates a scarcity of girls in the society. It is a matter of common knowledge that we very often find so many persons who after attaining the age of maturity are not able to get themselves married for want of girls.

This Bill does not call for any vicarious sacrifice from either sex. The provisions made there are just and reasonable. I oppose the amendment moved by Shrimati Parkash Kaur for referring it to a select Committee because it will simply delay matters. I, therefore, make a fervent appeal to the hon. Members of this House to treat this Bill as an antidote to an evil which is eating into the vitals of the Hindu society. I hope they would extend their wholehearted support in passing this Bill.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, a Bill of this nature is very urgently needed for the reform of the Hindu society especially where it is found that bigamous marriages have been going on

[Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri]
for centuries and no effort has been made to check them. Such bigamous marriages have not been limited to one, two or threc. There are instances where they went up to hundreds in number. I am very glad that this Bill has been brought forward to prevent such marriages. Purity, especially in social life is very essential for the development of the society in this twentieth century. I wish this Bill was sponsored by a male member of the House.

Mr. Speaker : You could have brought forward the Bill yourself. There was nothing to stand in your way.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri : If my hon. Sister. Shrimati Sita Devi had not taken this step I would have certainly presented such a Bill for the acceptance of the House. I must congratulate my sister on her success in bringing forward this measure before the House after long and continuous efforts.

I want to throw some light on the various aspects of this matter. One of the essentials of human life is that a man should have temperate habits and be a "jati". It is said that a man with only one wife is a virtuous man. One should not have more than one wife if he wants to lead a happy life and to rise in the world. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh is smiling. But I would like to tell him that this is not a matter to laugh at.

Mr. Speaker : No personal remarks, please.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri : But he is laughing, Sir.

I would again submit that if purity is to be maintained in the society, then it is imperative that a man should not only acquire pious habits but also fine qualities of human beings. He should also exercise strict restraint over his passions and control his mind. It is his duty to see that women get a place of honour and respect in the Society. As a matter of fact, men and women are the two wheels of the chariot of life in this world. The chariot cannot run smoothly unless both these wheels work properly. Therefore, with these words, Sir, I strongly commend the Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill for the acceptance of the House. Since the time I stood up to speak, the hand of the hon. Speaker has been striking against the bell, I, therefore, finish the speech and resume my seat.

Shrimati Shanno Devi (Amritsar City, West) (*Hindi*): (*As soon as the hon. Lady Member rose to speak, there was a loud applause in the House*):

Mr. Speaker, I fear lest this loud applause just accorded to me should subseqnently take some unhappy turn, for I feel that the principle embodied in this Bill directly hits our present-day civilisation. From ancient times women have been occupying a privileged position in society and it is thus a matter of deep regret that men now-a-days do not take honourable care of them and there has been a necessity today to bring forward such a measure before the House. Sir, I wish to submit that not taking notice of the other innumerable remarkable examples of the past, whenever a discussion was held on this Bill, its opponents quoted only the precedent of Raja Dashrath and his three queens to substantiate their view point.

Mr. Speaker: I have already ruled that we should not refer to historical events in the discussion of this Bill. I hope that the hon. Lady Member would refrain from indulging in such references.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : Sir, as a matter of fact, I would not have referred to this event had some of the hon. Members also refrained from making such references. I do feel that the people who advance such arguments to strengthen their case perhaps forget that a place of honour and respect was accorded to women in the past. I make bold to say that in case a man is allowed to contract a second marriage in the life time of this first wife—as it appears to be the intention of the members of that sex from the speeches of some hon. Members—his home will be converted into a cockpit of quarrels and disputes. Again, Sir, it goes without saying that in a house or a society where there are always quarrels and disputes, the condition of the persons becomes miserable. Its downfall is inevitable one day or the other. Therefore the way in which they have persented their case—of course, a case to plead against the enactment of this Bill—has dealt a serious blow my heart. How nice would it have been had those learned comrades not presented it in that peculiar way!

Apart from this, Sir, they have very sarcastically remarked that it is a matter of deep regret that there are only three hon. Lady Members in this House and they too do not even sit together on one bench in this House. I have been simply surprised to hear this remark. They forget that we are not occupying these seats of our own accord. After all we are also their colleagues in this House. Sir, I would like to remark that had they given a cool and patient thought to this question at the time when elections to this House were being held and displayed their willingness to give more seats to my sex, it would be no wonder if instead of three there would have been 13, 23 or 33 lady members on these benches. Nevertheless, Sir, I take this opportunity to assure you that despite our number being three in this House we have all along endeavoured to raise the level in all seriousness of debate and uphold the prestige and honour of the Chair. We never behave in a manner derogatory to the dignity of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Your assertion is not substantiated because you are irrelevant.

Shrimati Shanno Devi : All right, Sir. What I want to submit is that despite the fact that this is a remarkably nice piece of legislation, an hon. Member has observed that it looks extremely odd to debar a man to contract a bigamous marriage. Proceeding further, he went to the length of saying at 'let the women also enjoy this privilege which men have got'. In reply to this, not dilating much on the point, I would simply submit through you, Sir, that instead of making this observation it would have been better if he had advanced some good argument. (*At this stage the hon. Speaker rang the bell asking the hon. Lady Member to wind up her speech*). It does not, however mean that women should also follow suit if men tread a wrong path. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, I am of the view that the custom of dowry prevailing in the present-day society is a stigma on the entire civilization for it has lowered the prestige of women. Once I was at the University of California.

Minister for Irrigation : Why don't you talk of your own native country ?

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : My object in making such a reference is to let the House know, Sir, the opinion of foreign countries on this particular custom of India. Once a Professor of that University came to visit this country. From the information which he gathered in this respect here, he was of the opinion that it was cheaper to contract a marriage than to engage a servant in India. While explaining his contention, he said that it required less money to celebrate a marriage than to engage a servant.

While introducing this Bill, my hon. Sister blamed men. She remarked that the responsibility for this sorry state of affairs rests on men. I feel that she has thrown light only on one aspect of the case. Therefore, Sir, I feel it my duty to reveal the other side of the picture too before you. I think that women are also equally responsible for introducing this evil custom in the society. When a woman becomes a mother-in-law, she has an intense desire to get her son married for the second time. Sir, I have a personal experience of this kind. I know that my own sister could not happily live with her husband so long as her mother-in-law was alive. Sir, I do not mean to reproach the departed soul; but I am quoting this example to disclose the true facts. Besides, they have the desire to get their sons married at as early an age as possible. Hardly he attains the marriageable age; hardly he understands the responsibilities of a married life when he is called upon by his parents to marry. Apart from this, thousand and one such cases daily come to our notice where the mother of the boy instigates the latter against the conduct of his wife. Many a time she complains that her daughter-in-law has not cared to carry out her instructions, which unfortunately leads to friction between the husband and the wife. The daily quarrels make their domestic life miserable and beyond endurance. This clearly goes to show that the women are more at fault in this regard than the men.

Sir, the Bill which is now before the House should be passed. But my hon. Sister Shrimati Parkash Kaur has moved an ammendment to the effect that this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee which, besides others, includes my name as well. I would be too pleased to serve on this Select Committee. But all the same I earnestly desire that this Bill should be passed. Ever since this Assembly came into being this Bill was placed on its agenda several times but, unfortunately, for some reason or the other it could not be discussed. And now when this Bill has been introduced by her, there is no reason why it should not be passed.

One thing more and I have done. With regard to the argument of divorce advanced by her I may submit that there is no need for incorporating a provision of divorce in this Bill for about one year. When the people have been going on without divorce for such a long time, there is no reason why they should not wait for another year. The period of one year does not make any substantial difference. Even if there was any untoward incident, it could conveniently be discussed later on and such a provision can be incorporated after a year. Therefore, it will be in the fitness of things if she gives up the idea of referring this Bill to a Select Committee. If the Assembly pass this Bill at this stage, it will earn the gratitude of the woman community for taking steps to better their lot.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

Shri Rala Ram (Mukerian) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, the ideal of our ancient religion and civilisation has all along remained what is described in a Sanskrit saying "चकुवाकेव दम्पत्ति" viz., may the couple live long but even if, as ill luck would have it, the wife was separated from her husband on account of one reason or the other, the latter would not marry any other lady. This is, as a matter of fact, a very high ideal. But now we are living in such an age where strange things happen. This ideal remains confined to our shastras and other religious books only. But now-a-days, Sir, our society has deviated from this principle to such an extent that the old civilization has altogether disappeared, with the result that the married women are subjected to indignities and insults and mal treatment. The responsibility of according such ill-treatment to them, I am extremely pained to say, lies mostly on the educated people of our society. Sir, I am Principal of a college and as such it is my duty to impart education to the people. I frequently get opportunity to know about the character of both married and unmarried persons. Besides, I also have knowledge about the conduct of those who are occupying high and privileged position in service. In a word, today's civilization can unreservedly be described as a civilisation of the 'Film Stars'. When a cinema-goer returns home after seeing a picture he tells his wife, even if she is the mother of one or two children, that her complexion was not as smooth as that of Nargis.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The motion before the House is that the Bill be referred to Select Committee. The hon. Member should speak on that point.

Shri Rala Ram : I was submitting, Sir, that innumerable atrocities are being committed on lakhs of women these days. Many persons desert their wives resulting in miserable plight of the latter. I beg to point cut that reference of this Bill to the Select Committee will be tantamount to its postponement. This Bill was introduced a long time ago. It was placed before the last Assembly and has appeared on our agenda again and again. It has been thrashed out in detail and keeping in view the cruelties to which women are being subjected we should not postpone it any more. In order to put an end to their suffering we should pass it as early as possible. Nobody should have the freedom to remarry during the lifetime of his wife. With these words, I support the Bill and oppose the amendment for its reference to Select Commitee.

Shri Ram Chandra Comrade (Nurpur) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I congratulate my hon. Sister Shrimati sita Devi on her introducing such a good measure. By passing it we will be able to prove that our country has marched from slavery with its attendant degradation to freedom. It is said that there was a golden age in our country.....

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member need not go into the merits of the Bill at this stage.

• **Shri Ram Chandra Comrade**: I have been told that I need not go into the merits of the Bill. I beg to point out that I have risen to oppose the amendment because it is necessary that we should save the women from the hardships which they have to suffer. This is such an important task that there is no need of advancing arguments in its favour. As pointed out by one of my sisters, there are many other defects in the Hindu society.

[Shri Ram Chandra Comrade]

For example, the right of divorce does not exist. I admit that this is a defect but if it is desired to give the right of divorce, a separate bill will have to be brought for that purpose. At present, we are considering the Bill relating to bigamous marriages and it must be passed. Shrimati Sita Devi has been bringing forward this Bill again and again but every time there was some discussion on it and then it was postponed. As a matter of fact, there can be no opposition to this measure. If some modification in it is considered essential it can be effected by moving an amendment. I support the original motion but oppose the amendment proposing its reference to Select Committee because the latter course may lead to its postponement for an indefinite period. It is just possible that the report of the Select Committee may not be presented for months together or even for a year.

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, so far as the principle of this Bill is concerned every body is in its favour. Nobody whether inside this House or outside it is opposed to it but we must bear in mind the existing circumstances. I congratulated my hon. Sister Shrimati Sita Devi every time when she moved this Bill and this time also I wish to offer her still heartier congratulations.

As regards the prevailing circumstances, I wish to point out two things in particular. If it is intended to pass this measure in order that we may be able to style ourselves as highly advanced, that would serve no useful purpose. Some hon. Members cited the instances of England and America but may I ask them if we have given to our daughters the right of choosing their own husbands ? Reference is made to the Ramayana but we are not told whether even the educated girls in this country have the freedom of choosing businessmen, factory-owners or other persons of their choice as their husbands. If some girl marries a person of her own choice she is regarded by the public as being of loose character. In about ninety per cent of the marriages in this country, the express consent of the girls is not obtained. These girls have no alternative except to be contented with their lot. While judging a boy from matrimonial point of view the fact whether he owns a motor-car, a factory and is in a position to support a wife is taken into consideration. If it is really intended to raise the country we should first give to our daughters full freedom in the matter of marriage. I, however, notice that even the boys have no freedom in this connection. If a boy says that he wants to marry a particular girl he is told that she belongs to a Jat family and not to a Khatri family. Personal qualifications of the boys and girls are not the determining factors. I beg to submit that since time immemorial we have been condemning polygamy but we should create the proper atmosphere by education and propaganda from the platform so that men and women may have real freedom in the matter of marriage. In many cases soon after their marriages the boys said that they did not like their wives and so murdered them by poisoning. After killing them they remarried. We should reform our society before placing measures of this kind on the statute book.

The second thing which I wish to point out is that there may be a millionaire who does not get a child in spite of the best medical treatment of his wife. The woman in such a case might ask her husband to marry her real sister so that he may not remain issueless. If this Bill is passed, the man placed in the position referred to by me will have to go to PEPSU or Himachal for contracting second marriage. After marrying there, he will return to his home in this State.

(*Voices : There is a provision governing such cases also.*) The Bill introduced by my hon. sister has many defects in it. She has used the word 'void' in clause 4 of the Bill.

The word void is meaningless. The real question is that of penalty which has been provided in clause 5 of this Bill. I would like to read out this clause for the information of the hon. Members.

> Notwithstanding any law, custom or usage to the contrary, whoever not being a minor contracts a bigamous marriage which is void under section 4 shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 494 of the Indian Penal Code.

The rseult of it would be that a person after contracting a bigamous marriage would go to Pepsu or Himachal Pradesh because offence is that of keeping a second wife and not of contracting a marriage. In India, lives of the girls are being ruined because they are not married at a proper age. Many times we see that some girls have to take recourse to abortion after pregnancy in order to hide their acts of adultery and to save themselves frcm being exposed. Moreover, instances are not wanting where the young girls have been murdered for carrying on love intrigues. I would ask, that if the husband of any young girl is killed in the battle-field, then should she read holy scriptures all her life? (*Laughter*). We never like that this Bill should not be passed but cannot help saying that there are many drawbacks in it. Supposing if a wife of any person is suffering from a chronic disease and she herself persuades her husband to get himself married then he will not be able to contract a bigamous marriage under this Bill. It appears that my sister has been actuated to sponsor this Bill by hearing speeches from the platform of Arya Samaj. I think that we should not proceed with this Bill with undue haste. We do not want that some persons may contract such marriages in PEPSU and Himachal Pradesh with impunity. If we look to the facts and figures in Punjab we will find that in villages many young men are leading a bachelor's life. In my ilaqa, if any woman becomes widow she is married to her husband's brother. So we have to take into consideration all these things. Under these circumstances, I suggest that this bill be referred to a Select Committee and when it emerges out of this Committee in a better form we will certainly support it.

Shri D. D. Puri : Sir, I beg to move—

That the question be now put.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Jullundur City, South East) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the amendment moved by my sister has received the support of only one member of the House, that is, the hon. Minister for Irrigation. All the members who have taken part in this debate except him have spoken in favour of the first motion. My brother Chaudhri Sahib and my sister have suggested that the Bill be referred to the Select Committee and

[Shrimati Sita Devi]
I would like to say something in reply to this. In this connection, I may submit that this Bill was already referred to the Select Committee in the year 1949 and the committee then held many sittings to consider this Bill. There is nothing in this Bill now which may necessitate sending it to the Select Committee again. No member of the House has opposed this Bill. But on the other hand they have supported it and the Government should, therefore, pass it with good grace.

Minister for Irrigation : On a point of order, Sir. When the House is going to decide to refer this Bill to a Select Committee, I fail to understand why the hon. Lady Member should advance arguments against this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : This is no point of order. How can the hon. Minister presume that ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : I think there is no occasion for sending this Bill to a Select Committee. The House instead of adopting such dilatory tactics should pass this Bill with good grace. My sister has referred to two or three points to which I consider it necessary to give a reply. She has remarked that the Bill should be sent to the Select Committee because no provision has been made in it for divorce. I would say that if such a provision is made in the Bill then it will not serve any useful purpose. The object of this Bill is to prevent snobbery and indignity that are perpetrated on the womenfolk. If any man contracts a bigamous marriage when his first wife is alive then naturally she becomes an outcast and is made to work all the day cleaning utensils and washing of clothes like a maid-servant. She has to bear snobbery and humiliation and thus lives a dishonourable life. I think it will be doing a great injustice to women by making a provision of divorce in the Bill. Women are mostly illiterate and they are economically dependent upon men. Now the position is that men very often sever their connections with their wives on one pretext or the other and think that they can only claim maintenance from them. Under these circumstances, it would be doing a great injustice to them by making a provision of divorce in this Bill.

Minister for Irrigation : Is the hon. Member relevant ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I would ask the hon. Lady Member to avoid repetition.

Sharimati Sita Devi : Sir, I am just replying to the arguments that have been advanced in favour of referring the Bill to the Select Committee.

My hon. sister Shrimati Parkash Kaur has objected to the absence of a provision enabling a man to divorce his wife in case she is suffering from an incurable disease. Centuries have rolled by but that has made no difference to a Hindu woman's faith in Patti Varrata Dharam. She still believes in standing by her husband even though he may be a cripple, a blind man or even a leper. In her eyes, even now husband has a place equal to God the Almighty. If a man will desist from divorcing his ailing wife, it will not be something very great on his part. If the divorce provision is incorporated in this Bill, it will be no wonder if some clever gentlemen manage to bribe some medical practitioners and secure false certificates from them about their wives' suffering from incurable diseases and thus succeed in proving that the latter were fit to be divorced.

Some hon. Members have pleaded that in view of the fact that a central legislation is likely to be enacted on this subject it is unnecessary to proceed with this measure. They were obviously referring to the Hindu Code Bill. My submission is that this Bill has been hanging fire for a pretty long time and God alone knows when if at all, it will find a place on the statute book and in what form. It has already changed many forms and aroused stout opposition from several sections of the people. The States of Bombay and Madras have already taken the credit of introducing social reform measures of the kind this Bill envisages. I see no reason why our State should lag behind. Chaudhri Sahib hardly raised a point which I consider relevant and therefore I am not replying to them.

Sir, what I mean to emphasise is that this Bill should not be referred to a Select Committee. It is the heart-felt desire of every member in this House that it may be passed here and now. Nobody in fact wants to oppose it; the members of the Opposition have described it as a wholesome measure. I again urge its immediate passage ; such an action on the part of the House will I am assure be appreciated very much by the public of this State.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. My hon. sister has expressed herself against the divorce provision. May I invite her attention to the fact that when the All-India Women Conference was asked to give its opinion on this subject, it had expressed itself in favour of the divorce provision? (*Cheers*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill, 1952 be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

1. Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon
2. Chaudhri Lahri Singh
3. Jathedar Mohan Singh
4. Professor Sher Singh
5. Chaudhri Dalbir Singh
6. Professar Mota Singh
7. Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina
8. Sardar Ajmer Singh
9. Comrade Ram Kishen
10. Shri Abhai Singh
11. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur

with a direction to report by the 15th August 1953.

After ascertaining the votes of the House by voices, Mr. Deputy Speaker said " I think the Ayes have it". This opinion was challenged and Division was claimed. Mr. Deputy Speaker after calling upon those Members who challenged his decision and supported the claim for a Division to rise in their places, declared that the Division was unnecessarily claimed.

The motion was declared carried.

THE PUNJAB RESTRAINT ON DOWRY BILL

Shrimati Sita Devi (Jullundur City, South East) (*Hindi*): Sir, I beg to move—

> That the Punjab Restraint on Dowry Bill, 1952 be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, this Bill that I am now putting before you was introduced in this House during the last session. There will be hardly any person of the Punjab who would be against this Bill. My hon. Brother Chaudhri Sahib might oppose it, if at all he does that. Nobody, however, wants that the ever-increasing practice of giving dowry should not be checked. Everybody is agreed on this point that the social evil of dowry should be abolished as soon as possible. All the brethren sitting here are educated persons and they read newspapers every day. I think that they have not so far forgotten the incident pertaining to Saneh Lata of Bengal. A girl, named Saneh Lata of Bengal, burnt herself alive because of the fact that so much of dowry in connection with her marriage was demanded from her parents that they were unable to give the same to the same extent. Since they were unable to give that much dowry, the girl committed suicide and thus sacrificed herself as a protest against this evil. Now her memory is being commemorated by filming her life story. But, Sir, I would like to inform the House, through you that there are hundreds of Saneh Latas in the Punjab itself who are being sacrificed. This system of dowry is of such a nature that, even though the parents of a girl may be penniless, the boys now-a-days force them to give a definite sum of money in dowry otherwise they refuse to marry that girl. The demand of our young boys who fortunately succeed to get into I. C. S. or some other good service, just like bidding in an auction where the bids rise from Rs. 5 to Rs. 100, rises up to Rs. 10 or 20 thousands by way of dowry. That is not all. Even at the time of betrothal, the parents of the boy enquire from the parents of the girl as to what they would give in dowry. You will be surprised to hear that the parents of girls have to give as much as Rs. 1,000 at the time of verbal agreement for marriage and as much as Rs. 5,000 along with countless baskets of fruit and trays of sweets at the time of betrothal. They do not give these things with pleasure. On the other hand, they are forced to do so. You are very well aware of the condition of the people of the Punjab. If I am not mistaken, 95 per cent people of the Punjab after the creation of Pakistan, belong to the middle and the lower classes while only five per cent of the people can be called rich. The condition of the middle class people, now-a-days is deplorable. On account of the rise in prices, they are finding it difficult to make their both ends meet. If, therefore, anybody gets ten sons, it is a matter for rejoicing, but if anybody gets four daughters, the whole house-hold is plunged into disappointment if not in mourning because of the fact that he will have to give a huge dowry in the marriages of those daughters which he is not in a position to give. I say that this practice has increased so much in the State that our people are being crushed under its weight. You, Sir, might be aware that even beautiful girls who are B.A.s and M.A.s have to remain unmarried and this is because of the fact that their parents cannot afford to give as much dowry as is demanded from them. I. C. S. boys and others employed on high posts agree to marry the less educated daughters of rich people because they manage to get from them Rs. 20,000 in dowry and a car. In this connection, I do not think there is need of giving

more instances since this evil of giving large dowry has increased so much in the Punjab that the people belonging to the middle class, as I have already said, are being crushed under its weight. There will be hardly any opponent of this Bill in this House and in fact there should be none. When I introduced this Bill during the last sessions, the people, on having read this news in the newspapers, had heaved a sigh of relief. They felt pleased that the Assembly was going to pass such a Bill. When they enquired from me, I told them that it would have to pass through many a stage before it becomes a law. This Bill has already been circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. The public opinion on it has been known. Now, through you, Sir, I appeal to my hon. Brethren that it should not be put in the circle of this Select Committee and it should be passed soon. By doing so, you will be able to do a true service to the people. I do not want to mention any names in this connection. But this much I can tell that a rich man who is the proprietor of a bank, has given dowry worth three lakh rupees to his daughter. From this, you can conclude how this disease is eating into the vitals of the Hindu Society. I therefore, hope that the whole House will pass this Bill unanimously.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved.

That the Punjab Restraint on Dowry Bill, 1952 be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Darbara Singh (Nurmahal) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have stood up to support the Bill regarding dowry which my hon. sister Shrimati Sita Devi has introduced. I would like to submit that, on account of this social evil, it has become a custom with the people to give heavy dowries in the marriage of their daughters. I am to submit that this evil is eating into the vitals of our society. In our villages and towns poor people are compelled to spend beyond their means only to look respectable. They spend their hard earned money on dowries irrespective of the fact whether or not they are able to look after their children and other members of the family properly. The inevitable result always is that their condition grows from bad to worse. I think that this Bill is likely to go a long way in removing this evil.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : We many times see that educated boys are married to uneducated girls. Such marriages take place owing to greed for money. I think that if a dowry has to be given to a girl, it should be given in the shape of education. If education is given to a girl in place of money there is no reason why she should not enjoy her married life in the company of her husband. She along with her husband will be able to live a better and more useful life. In case she is uneducated and is married to an uneducated husband, both of them are likely to feel miserable all their lives. No amount of dowry would improve their lot. The parents of the girl would be making such a huge sacrifice on their part but no benefit would accrue to the couple. I say, what is the good of wasting such huge amounts only to satisfy our false notions of dignity particularly when nobody stands to gain by it ? I think that this Bill is calculated to remove a very big evil and we should pass it without any hesitation. These days huge amounts are wasted on ordinary ceremonies like *Milni*, etc.

[Sardar Darbara Singh]

There is one thing in which I do not agree with Shrimati Sita Devi and it is that a sum of rupees five hundred may be spent on a dowry. Generally speaking, the ordinary people and particularly the Sikhs can manage the whole marriage within five hundred rupees. I think a dowry should not cost more than a rupee and four annas. Our people have not the capacity to spend rupees five hundred. With these words, Sir, I support this Bill.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City, North West) (*Hindi*) : There was a time when session was held of the All-India Social Reforms every year side by side with the annual session of the All-India Congress. Political resolutions were passed at one place and the resolutions ragarding social reforms at the other by the Congress workers. Now when our country is free and we are alive to the necessity of economic and political reforms, we should not overlook the need for social reforms. Hinduism suffers from many evils and dowry is one of them. It will be recalled that a law was passed in Sind in this connection before the division of India. Resolutions regarding this were also passed by the numerous social reforms organizations of India. Now there appears to be all the more reason to enact such a measure as after the division of India a very large number of Sindhis and Bengalis have come to live with us and they particularly suffer from this evil. At present, the annual income per capita is rupees 262 only and it is not possible for the people to give costly dowries. Perhaps that is why the suicide cases are on the increase. Only a few days ago, a lady had to commit suicide at Jullundur as her parents could not spend a large sum of money. I can quote a number of such instances. I, therefore, feel that we should make an all-out effort to liquidate our social evils. We should always remember that no society can ever become civilized unless and until proper social reforms are made. The leaders of our country should never be oblivious of this fact. I congratulate my hon. sister for bringing forth this Bill which is sure to benefit a very large number of our people. Without going into the merits of this Bill, I would say that it is our moral duty to remove the social evils as we have been holding out promises to the people to this effect. These are the days of democracy and I have every hope that no time will be lost in implementing the promises which we have been giving to our public and which demand the passing of this measure.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I am to submit that this Bill should not be passed as it stands. I object to the provision of rupees five hundred which can be spent on a dowry. The system of dowry which at present prevails in our country is very harmful and steps must be taken to liquidate it. It is a social evil which is a source of constant trouble to the parents as also to the boys and girls, The birth of a daughter is generally regarded as a decree of 5 or 10 thousand rupees against the parents, the meaning being that they will have to spend so much money on her marriage. This is a great evil in our social system.

Mr. Speaker, our sisters who have to become mothers one day and who deserve great respect and regard are absolutely ignored on account of the pernicious system of dowry. They are not given their proper social position in the society which is very objectionable. I would submit that Rs. 11, Rs. 51, and Rs 500 proposed to be given as *rukai*, *shagan* and

jahez are too much. It appears that the drafters of this Bill have absolutely ignored the interests of the public at large and they have drafted this Bill keeping in view the interests of rich people only who earn money by mal-practices. It is a wrong procedure and it would not serve the real and required purpose. This Bill would not at all better the lot of the poor people. In other words, it would not put any check upon the growing evils connected with the extravagance in the matter of dowry. There is one more shortcoming in this Bill that the Police Officers would fabricate false cases in league with the interested persons and make money by unnecessarily harassing the innocent people. As has already been suggested by the hon. Member who preceded me, the paramount necessity is of educating the girls and I wish that the Government should pay proper attention to disseminating knowledge amongst them by opening more schools and colleges in the State. During the course of discussion of the Budget, it was stated that three more high schools for girls were opened. Mr. Speaker, it is not a commendable achievement when the people themselves raise subscriptions for running schools as has been done in case of Jandiala School for girls. What I mean to submit is that if the Government really wants to better the lot of the poor people it should earmark more and more money for imparting education to them. These days, parents feel great difficulty in getting their uneducated daughters married and they are educating them for this purpose only.

In the end, I would again request that the money prescribed for *rukai, shagan* and *jahez* is too much and the village people would not be able to derive any benefit from this provision. The drafters of this Bill had in view only the benefit of the capitalist class and had ignored our interest. I would, therefore, appeal that our amendment may be accepted so that the poor class of our State may also be benefited.

Professor Sher Singh (Jhajjar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Restraint on Dowry Bill, 1952, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

1. Shri Jagat Narain.
2. Chaudhri Lahri Singh.
3. Sardar Mohan Singh.
4. Maulvi Abdul Ghani Dar.
5. Shrimati Sita Devi.
6. Shri Chuni Lal.
7. Sardar Gurbanta Singh.
8. Sardar Ajmer Singh.
9. Shri Sarup Singh.
10. Professor Sher Singh.
11. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht.
12. Shri Daulat Ram Sharma.
13. Shri Gopi Chand.
14. Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit.

with a direction to report by the 15th August 1953.

Professor Sher Singh]

Mr. Speaker, so far as the object of this Bill is concerned, I feel it is really commendable and all the hon. Members of this House are in entire agreement with it. Now we have to see that if the Bill is passed in its present form, would it be beneficial to the people of our State in the real sense of the word ?

Sir, I think that while drafting this Bill my sister Shirimati Sita Devi had in her mind only the interest of the capitalist class who gives dowry to their daughters worth thousands of rupees. Such people are only 5 to 10 per cent of the whole population who can afford to spend so much. Very few people of our society can spend Rs. 500 on the marriage of their daughters. Moreover, the practice of *rukai* and *milni* are not in vogue in our ilaqa. We observe only two rites *mangni* and marriage. At the moment, the public of this State has become sick of the lavish expenditure being incurred on these customs. In this connection, it would not be out of place to mention here that in January 1951 I had convened a conference in the Haryana Prant in which the people of Delhi State had also participated. As we had to find out a solution of the complications that have cropped up in our society and remove the evil customs at present prevalent, we held a meeting of Khases (all the tribes of our ilaqa) on the night of the 30th January in order to prepare an agenda to be placed in the general meeting.

Not a single person pleaded for enhancement of the maximum proposed in our resolution. In fact quite a number of people asked us to lower it. Lakhs of people welcomed the proposals adopted there. It was laid down in that resolution that not more than one rupee should be given in connection with any rite or ceremony except the marriage itself and that nobody should give more than Rs. 51 in cash at the time of marriage. As regards ornaments and jewellery, it was decided that nobody should give more than 30 tolas of gold and 50 tolas of silver. These decisions aimed at reducing unnecessary show and sham display to the minimum.

Sir, it is customary to invite the whole village to one meal at the time of a marriage in rural areas and if some one cannot afford that much he has at least to invite his own "baradari". Even in the latter case he has to feed some 50 to 100 persons ; but usually the number is between four and five hundred. This entails a lot of waste as well as an unnecessary expenses. For this reason, the Conference decided that not more than five persons should be invited on such occasions and that even this should not be treated as an established or necessary custom. Our idea was that those who could afford to give large amounts or lot of jewellery to their daughters may do so by all means but mere show and unnecessary display must be avoided. This show has to be avoided so that the poorer people who cannot afford to join that race for sheer display may not have to face avoidable difficulties.

Now, this scheme of things worked quite satisfactorily in 12 villages for one year. Once a certain man tried to upset it for fear of the parents of the wouldbe bride objecting to it but he was assured by the panchayat that if the parents of the bride proved obstinate another bride would be found for him. And, Sir, a bride was actually found the very next day. This decision is being acted upon in five districts of the Uttar Pradesh. In our own ilaqa too, it is followed

in 80 to 85 per cent cases. Usually, it is the big Chaudhris who put obstacles in the implementation of such decisions. In order to show their surperiority over the poorer section of the population, these people invite large number of people to dinners, etc. and otherwise oppose such decisions.

These decisions reflected the actual desire of the people. Now if they are brought on the Statute Book by some legislation, that action will go a long way to give relief to the people because that will put an end to the machinations of the people who compel the parents of the brides to pay beyond their means. I am glad that my hon. sister has brought forward this Bill which aims at placing a legal ban on the avaricious designs of those who try to squeeze more money out of the parents of brides. But she has made no mention of ornaments, jewellery, clothes, etc. in her Bill. She has proposed Rs 500 as the maximum that can be paid at the time of the marriage. But at the same time she has also proposed certain amounts to be paid at the time of "rukayi" and "milni." Thus her Bill will afford no relief whatsoever to the poor people. In proposing these maximum limits, she seems to have had in view the people who spend lacs of rupees on such occasions. I admit that we should give as much to our daughters and sisters as we can but we should not allow such snobbish display and unnecessary show as would cause a lot of hardship to poor people. The customs about payment of money on various occasions as well as about food and dinners have not been touched in this Bill. I am, therefore, of the opinion that this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee so that after necessary amendments and modifications there may emerge a piece of legislation which would convince the people that their representatives keep in view the interest of the people in all their activities and that they are not actuated only to safeguard the interests of the rich people who form only 10 or 12 per cent of the population. I, therefore, hope that the House will accept my amendment which proposes that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Restraint on Dowry Bill, 1952, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

1. Shri Jagat Narain.
2. Chaudhri Lahri Singh.
3. Sardar Mohan Singh.
4. Maulvi Abdul Ghani Dar.
5. Shrimati Sita Devi.
6. Shri Chuni Lal.
7. Sardar Gurbanta Singh.
8. Sardar Ajmer Singh.
9. Shri Sarup Singh.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

10. Professor Sher Singh.
11. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht.
12. Shri Daulat Ram Sharma.
13. Shri Gopi Chand.
14. Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit.

with a direction to report by the 15th August 1953.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Ramdas) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, in fact it was an imperative necessity to legislate the Anti-Dowry Bill which has today been introduced by my hon. sister. Shrimati Sita Devi. I feel that in view of the prevalence of the evil custom of dowry in our social set-up it goes without saying that the parents having five or six daughters to marry must have been praying to God to show them light to get rid of them. In such circumstances, the poor families rather find it impossible to solemnize the marriages of their grown up daughters. I therefore, felicitate my hon. sister for the very keen interest which she has taken to pilot this Bill on the floor of this House. Nevertheless, I still feel that it lacks the most significant provision which also ought to have been incorporated. I would further say that this Bill has not been drafted in the form in which it was desired. Of course she has got a good deal of experience to her credit but I cannot help saying that she has kept in view only the difficulties of the urban population. She has ignored to take into account the miserable plight of those middle class people who live in villages. They are very poor, and earn their livelihood after putting in very hard labour and above all are not in a position even to spend a paltry sum of Rs 50 or Rs 100 to celebrate the marriages of their daughters. In the circumstances, Sir, my personal opinion is that there is no need of having a provision of clause 2 in this Bill. I am rather of the view that the marriage should only cost a sum of Re 1 or Rs 1-4-0 which should be paid to the 'Bhai', 'Granthi' or a 'Pandit' who performs the sacred religious ceremony. But for this particular provision there ought not be any more clause in this Bill. Sir, I fear that the way in which my hon. Sister desires to limit the dowry, 'rukai' or 'milni' will undoubtedly give rise to black-mailing, with the result that the parents of the bridegroom will induce the parents of the bride to enter into some understanding in regard to the payment of certain amount well in advance of the solemnization of the marriage. It will be no wonder if the parents of the boy refuse to marry their son in that family after sometime.

Then, Sir, another factor which agitates the mind of the middle class people is their keen desire to uphold their dignity and prestige by putting up grand show on such occasions. They want to maintain their honour and dignity at all costs. Now the consequences of preserving such honour and prestige are known to all. It has resulted in the gradual degradation and ruination of the middle class. After all, what is its root cause ? It is this that the black marketers, the big factory owners and the big landlords celebrate the marriages of their daughters with great pomp and show that even an ordinary boy now expects very costly dowry from his 'inlaws'. But when his demand is not fulfilled then only God knows how the poor and innocent girl has to bear snobbery and humiliation in the family of her 'in-laws' with the result that her life becomes intolerable.

In the circumstances, I feel that the provision relating to marriage gifts which includes ornaments and clothes should not be incorporated in the Bill because it would be quite impossible for the poor peasants to give in dowry such costly things. I am, as a matter of fact, deadly against the exhibition of such pomp and show in marriages.

Apart from this, Sir, if we look to the present-day conditions, it goes without saying that there is a general tendency among the bachelors to marry a highly educated girl. They want that the girl should at least be a graduate and be well-trained in music, etc. On the other hand, the times have now so changed that even the girls take part in Simla beauty competition, Delhi beauty competitions and so many other activities which I do not even know. Thus, Sir, if we minutely examine the details it will be seen that the parents have to spend more than twice or thrice the amount on educating their daughters as compared to the expenditure involved on the education of their sons. I am extremely pained to see that our society is deteriorating. In such circumstances, one can easily infer that our social standard will degenerate to such an extent that the poor and the middle class people will not be able to heave a sigh of relief. I, of course, do feel the necessity of imparting high education to the girls but at the same time I feel that right type of education should be given to them. There is no denying the fact that the education is the real ornament of a girl which nobody can steal away from her and which comes to her rescue at the time of adversity. Sir, I rather wish that instead of expecting any ornaments and clothes, the young men should go after the characteristic traits and accomplishments of the girl. They should see whether or not the girl is well-versed in household affairs. They should see whether the girl is educated so that she may be able to adapt herself properly to all circumstances—in adversity or in prosperity.

With these words, Sir, I support the amendment tabled by my brother Professor Sher Singh that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee and urge the House to accept it. The Select Committee will throughly scrutinise this Bill and will include the provisions which in its opinion are necessary to be incorporated therein. In this way, the object with which my hon. sister has introduced this Bill in the House will be served.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Ambala City) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the Bill which is today before the House is a very important and significant one. I offer my heartiest felicitations to its mover, because I believe that by introducing this Bill she has displayed feelings of love and duty towards her community. However, I also notice certain flaws in it. Since some of them have already been sufficiently discussed by my hon. Sister, Doctor Parkash Kaur, I need not repeat them but I would advance someother suggestions in this connection.

Sir, all are agreed on this point that whether dowry is given or not the girls must be imparted education. There is also no denying the fact that the primary purpose of imparting education to them is to make them well-versed in household duties. But, Sir, the circumstances obtaining in our society today clearly show that not to speak of performing their household duties, the educated girls do not even like to take interest in them. What they want is to engage a servant for this purpose.

[Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan]

Now I advert to the question of dowry. True, we want to do away with the evil custom of giving dowry in marriage. But, Sir,I cannot help saying that you may enact thousand and one pieces of legislation to ban it, you may create the public opinion against this obnoxious custom but just as the hon. Professor Sahib has remarked, it will not be abolished by any legal measures. Why ? Unless you do not place such a legislative measure on the Statute Book which may bestow a share to the daughter in the property of her father, this custom is sure to continue. Until then the parents will obviously think it one of their duties and moral obligations to give dowry to their daughters. This is why, Sir, a girl is considered to be a curse in the present-day society. But on the other hand as soon as she goes to the house of her in-laws' of her mother-in-law takes all her valuables her possession. She is thus deprived of all her ornaments and cash with the result that again she has no money with her. In the circumstances, there is only one solution of this problem i. e. like Muslim law of inheritance, the girl should have the right to share in the property of her parents and husband otherwise I am of the opinion that the custom of dowry will remain in vogue. Unless the parents do not realise that they are to give a share of their property to their daughter they will, undoubtedly, continue to give something to their daughters in the form of dowry.

Now the question is what would be the remedy if after the abolition of dowry system the parents agree to offer some presents to their son-in-law before the solemnisation of the marriage of their daughter. If the father of a bride decides to give her a lakh of rupees in the presence of his relations there is nothing to prevent him from doing so. My hon. sister has provided in the Bill and some other hon. Members have also stated that a person should be free to give any amount to his daughter, provided he does so willingly. Do the fathers give dowries to their daughters grudgingly ? Do they not give these gladly ?

Then, Sir, so far as the motion for reference of the Bill to a Select Committee is concerned, I am of the opinion that if the hon. Member are in favour of this Bill its passage should not be delayed. It should be passed just now so that the shortcomings and defects in it may be removed after through discussion on the floor of the House. In the end, Sir, I congratulate my hon. sister, Shrimati Sita Devi once again for presenting this Bill.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Before we proceed further, I would like to make some announcements.

Under Rule 170 (as amended) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly, the following members have been duly elected by the Punjab Legislative Assembly to serve on the Committee on Public Accounts for the year 1953-54.

1. Sardar Darbara Singh

2. Shri Daulat Ram Sharma

3. Shri Dev Raj Anand
4. Rao Gajraj Singh
5. Principal Harbhajan Singh
6. Sardar Harkishen Singh Surjit
7. Shri Harnam Singh Sethi
8. Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal
9. Principal Rala Ram.

Under Rule 170 Sub-rule (7) (a), the Speaker has appointed Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal as Chairman of the Committee.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE.

Under Rule 172 (as amended) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Legislative Assembly, the following Members have been duly elected by the Punjab Legislative Assembly to serve on the Committee on Estimates for the year 1953-54.

1. Shri Dev Dutt Puri
2. Shri Hari Ram
3. Sardar Khem Singh
4. Shri Maru Singh Malik
5. Sardar Mohan Singh Jathedar
6. Shri Mool Chand Jain.
7. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur
8. Shri Samar Singh
9. Shri Som Datta Bahari

Under Rule 172 (5) (a), the Speaker has apppointed Shri Som Datta Bahri, as Chairman of the Committee.

Shri Rizaq Ram : Sir, I beg to move—

That the question be now put.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Restraint on Dowry Bill, 1952, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

1. Shri Jagat Narain,
2. Chaudhri Lahri Singh,
3. Sardar Mohan Singh,
4. Maulvi Abdul Ghani Dar,
5. Shrimati Sita Devi
6. Shri Chuni Lal
7. Sardar Gurbanta Singh
8. Sardar Ajmer Singh
9. Shri Sarup Singh
10. Professor Sher Singh
11. Shri Dharam Vir Vasisht
12. Shri Daulat Ram Sharma
13. Shri Gopi Chand
14. Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit

with a direction to report by the 15th August, 1953.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 *p. m. on Friday the* 17*th April* **1953.**

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

17th April, 1953

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Punjab Legislative Assembly

Friday, 17th April, 1953.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (Dr. Satyapal) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY IN THE COMMUNITY PROJECT AREA OF TEHSIL NAWANSHAHR, DISTRICT JULLUNDUR.

*1838. **Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state:—

(a) the time by which electricity is expected to be made available in the Community Project Area of Tehsil Nawanshahr, District Jullundur;

(b) the rate to be charged from the consumers in rural and urban areas for agricultural and industrial purposes, respectively?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : (a) As no demand for electric power for the Community Project Area of Tehsil Nawanshahr, District Jullundur, has so far been received, the time by which the electric supply could be made available cannot be indicated. However, it is expected to make electric power available for this area by September, 1953, if a demand in this behalf is received by the Electricity Branch.

(b) Uhl River Scheme Rates are laid on the Table.* They will remain in force until Nangal supply becomes available.* The rates for Nangal supply are being drawn up.

DEMAND OF THE ZAMINDARS OF JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

*1839 **Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Minister for Irrigation be pleased to state whether the Zamindars of District Jullundur had placed their demand before him during his visit to Jullundur in July, 1952, with regard to the amendment to be made in the East Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Act, 1949, for providing facilities in the payment of electricity charges; if so, whether there has been any correspondence between the Government and the Ministry concerned at the Centre together with the results thereof?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I did not visit Jullundur in the month of July, nor do I remember to have received any such demand from the zamindars of Jullundur on any of my visits to that place. I may, however, state for the information of my hon. Friend that the East Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Act, 1949, which lapsed on

*Kept in the Library.

[Minister for Irrigation]
the 18th of November 1952, did not provide for any facilities in the matter of payment of electricity charges. The question of correspondence between the Punjab Government and the Government of India does not, therefore, arise.

SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CALCUTTA.

*1840. **Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state:—

(a) whether he is aware of the suggestions made by the Committee of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, for exploring the possibility of setting up an economic unit for the manufacture of newsprint in the Punjab State;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the suggestion referred to above has been adopted by the Government, and the action if any, taken in this connection?

Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) Yes;

(b) The question in regard to the development of newsprint industry in this State was considered in the third meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee for Industries and it was decided that before considering this matter the Government of India may be requested to send the foreign expert employed by them under the Technical Scheme of Food and Agriculture, as early as possible, to study the possibilities of establishing this industry in this State. The Government of India to whom the matter was referred have intimated that a Technical Mission from Food and Agriculture Organisation was shortly expected to come to India to enquire into the possibilities of establishing newsprint factories in India, and it would examine whether a newsprint factory could be suitably established in the Punjab.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY *RE* BILLS RECEIVED FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Secretary : Sir, I have to make the following announcements:—

(1) In pursuance of Rule 2(ii) of the Punjab State Legislature (Communications) Rules, 1952, I have to inform the House that the Punjab Nurses Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1952, passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly, on the 8th April, 1953, and transmitted to ths Punjab Legislative Council on the 9th April, 1953, has been agreed to by the said Council without any amendment, on the 15th April, 1953.

(2) In pursuance of Rule 2(ii) of the Punjab State Legislature (Communications) Rules, 1952, I have to inform the House that the Northern India Canal and Drainage (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 1953, passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 15th April, 1953, and transmitted to the Punjab Legislative Council on the same day, has been agreed to by the said Council, without any amendment, on the 16th April, 1953.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Secretary : In pursuance of Rule 2(ii) of the Punjab State Legislature (Communications) Rules, 1952, I have the honour to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Sikh Gurdwaras (Second Amendment) Bill, 1953, and the Punjab Sikh Gurdwaras Board (Transitional Provisions) Bill, 1953, which were passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 14th April, 1953, and the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 1953 (by Sardar Darbara Singh, M.L.A.), passed on the 15th April, 1953 and transmitted to the Punjab Legislative Council, for its concurrence. These have been returned by the said Council with amendments.

STATEMENT MADE BY THE CHIEF MINISTER *RE* FOOD CONTROL POLICY.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar): Sir, I would like to inform the House of an important decision we have taken in regard to Food Control.

After detailed discussions with the Food Minister at the Centre and amongst ourselves, we have decided to withdraw the control on wheat. (*Cheers*). There shall be in future no monopoly procurement of wheat (*Cheers*), nor will there be restrictions on price or movement within the State. (*Cheers*). Only exception to this may be movement restrictions in belts contiguous to the State Border where smuggling may otherwise take place. Simultaneously with the decontrol of wheat, Rationing and Distribution will be withdrawn from all parts of the State. (*Cheers*). As it may take sometime for new supplies from the free market to become available, particularly in rationed towns, at some distance from markets, foodgrains will be available from depots up to 15th May, 1953. After that date, the depots will be closed down.

The Central Food Minister has agreed that there should be no export of wheat from the Punjab during the coming crop year, so as to ensure adequate supplies to make decontrol system a success. He has also agreed that the restriction on movement from the State will continue so that the wheat from Punjab does not go to other areas. In order to stabilize prices and to ensure some stocks in Government hands in case of any shortage developing in any part of the State during the year, Government will purchase a portion of the arrivals in the market at the market price. We are confident that this decision will come as a relief to the people of the State who will now be able to purchase their staple food without restrictions of the control system. (*Cheers*). The crop this year, though somewhat poorer than the last, is believed to be quite adequate to meet the needs of the Punjab. This fact coupled with the small reserve which Government propose to build up by purchases in the market gives satisfactory promise of this experiment of decontrol proving successful. I would like to take this opportunity of appealing to all the interests connected with foodgrains, the producers, the traders and the consumers, to co-operate fully in establishing the decontrol. As rice is badly required by other States of the country, the control of it will continue as at present.

[Chief Minister]

With your permission, Mr. Speaker, if I may say so, this is the Birthday Gift from the Punjab Government because today is the beginning of the second year of the birth of this Ministry. (*Cheers*).

Now, Sir, I wish to explain the policy of the Government in regard to food control in Hindi for the benefit of those hon. Members who may not have been able to follow it on account of their not knowing English. For some time past, Sir, this food control has been going on in our State. You would admit, Sir, and it gives pleasure to admit this fact that whosoever has got the opportunity to see the working of our control, has really appreciated the system evolved by the Punjab which has worked all this time quite satisfactorily. But in spite of this fact, the people had to face a lot of inconvenience on account of the restrictions that have to be imposed due to the controls and which were imposed in actual practice. Even last year, the demand for the removal of controls was put forth. At that time, the Punjab Government replied that they were prepared to make an experiment in this regard provided the Central Government agreed that the wheat of the Punjab would not be exported to any other place. It was proposed that the Punjab would be grouped in one zone either with Delhi or with some other State but the Punjab Government could not agree to this proposal. Now, however, the Central Government has changed that policy and has accepted the view-point of the Punjab, namely, that the wheat of the Punjab will not be freely exported out of the State. (*Cheers*). In this connection the Central Government has informed us that they would not demand any wheat for Delhi from us during this year. Sir, besides meeting the food requirements of the State last year the Punjab Government had given 66,000 tons of wheat to Delhi State. This time, however, the Central Government have agreed that they would not demand any wheat from us. As there is no demand now from Delhi and no wheat can now be exported from the Punjab, under these circumstances, the question arises why the advice of the Central Government regarding throwing the market open, be not accepted so that the producer and the consumer may get the opportunity to sell and buy freely. If this is done nobody will get any opportunity to complain that the flour is not good, the wheat supplied is not good, the flour is not properly ground, etc., etc. Everybody will be able to get these things according to his own taste. Then sometimes, people complain that they do not get sufficient food to eat on account of the controls. If the controls are abolished, they can purchase the food required by them in the open market. Sir, after taking into consideration all these things, the Punjab Government arrived at the conclusion that the advice of the Central Government should be accepted. While accepting this advice, the Punjab Government has kept this thing in view that the price of wheat has to be kept stable in the Punjab. It will not be allowed to happen that either the prices should fall very low or they should rise very high. In other words, the prices will be kept stable. What has the Punjab Government done in this regard? It is this. Wheat in the Punjab can be freely transported from one place to another. This means that it can be taken for sale to any market in the State. So far as the prices are concerned, wheat can be sold at any price. That price will depend on the demand in the market. There does not remain any fear of the rise

in prices since there is enough wheat for our own consumption, and it has not to be exported outside the State nor is it to be procured for Delhi or any other State.

Sir, there is one thing more which would keep the prices stable. At present gram can be exported outside the State in any quantity with the exception of Rohtak and Hissar Districts from which it cannot be exported. Previously, gram could be exported in any quantity outside the State. But according to the scheme that has now been put forth by the Central Government, a single zone will be formed comprising Utter Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, PEPSU etc. If anybody would like to export gram from the Punjab, he would be permited to do so; but he will have to fulfil certain conditions. For instance, if he would purchase 100 tons of gram for purposes of export, he would be allowed to export sixty tons and the remaining forty tons will have to be given to the Punjab Government. He will have to sell it to the Government at the proper price. He may charge any price he likes for gram outside the State, but he will not be allowed to ignore the needs of the people and send it outside the State. The gram crop has been good this year and, therefore, the price of wheat is not likely to go up. And then we shall have our own stocks which will help us towards the close of the year when the prices usually rise. We are keeping these stocks lest the hoarders should cause trouble to the people by increasing the price of wheat. What the Government is going to do is this that it will buy a certain percentage of all the wheat that comes into the markets. In this way we will go on replenishing our stocks and would throw them into the market if and when there is a fear of the price going up.

There is another thing which requires mention. The borders of our State touch those of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Pepsu etc., and we have to take some steps to stop smuggling. One of the proposals is that movements should be restricted within five to ten miles all along the border. In this way anybody attempting to smuggle wheat will be caught and duly dealt with. The Anti-Smuggling Staff will, of course, be there to do its duty but then it will be very good of the hon. Members if they create public opinion in favour of this proposal in their constituencies. It is a very useful step and is calculated to help the poor people. Every person should consider himself to be a sentry of the State and should help set up a Volunteer Corps for the purpose of putting a stop to smuggling. My friends should rest assured that we will not allow anybody to hoard foodgrains and take any undue advantage of the helpless situation of the people. In case of need the stocks may even be frozen.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to tell the House that about twenty-two lakhs of people are affected by rationing and we wish to bring them into line with the remaining one lakh and twenty-six thousand people so that there may be no distinction between them. I hope that the hon. Members will help the Government in this work and do everything in their power in raising a Volunteer Corps. The Government is prepared to give all kinds of encouragement for checking hoarding and smuggling. I wish that we should all join in doing this work so that our people may be in a position to heave a sigh of relief. It

[Chief Minister]
is possible that this step may cause hardship in some cases but generally speaking it will create a healthy atmosphere. I am full of appreciation for the zamindars and others who by dint of their hard work have enabled us to get rid of controls. I think all honour goes to the zamindars. Yesterday a friend who is a Member of Parliament was walking with me in the bazar and I put my hand into his pocket.

Mr. Speaker : You have started doing that also. (*Laughter*).

Chief Minister : Mr. Speaker, I did it in public. He laughed and said that his pocket was empty. I said that that was to be filled. This was in a nutshell the policy of the Punjab Government and the Congress. We wish to increase production and for that purpose we have undertaken the consolidation work. We wish to have more cattle.

Then, Sir, we wish that honest workers may be advanced taccavi loans, more wells may be dug up and good motorable roads may be constructed so that the kisans may be able to carry their produce quite conveniently to the market and sell it at suitable rates. Sir, it is the set programme of our Government which I have placed before the House and I hope that with the unconditional help and whole-hearted co-operation of the hon. Members we would be able to translate it into action successfully. By carrying out this programme we would be adding a feather to the cap of our State. It is, however, possible that the mischievous element which believes in destructive and subversive activities may try to avail of this opportunity. Then, of course, we would be obliged to adopt really strict measures to suppress it. In this connection, through you, I would again make an appeal to the people of the State that no person should try to stock the foodgrains. We people are there to perform this job. We are just like a cloud which fetches water from the far off sea and drops it over the dry land. But those people should not hoard up foodgrains who do not know its proper use and who would stock it even at the cost of others' lives. What I mean to submit is that there is a great difference between their and our hoarding up of foodgrains. I am sure that if the hon. Members would extend their whole-hearted and willing co-operation the Government would be able to carry out its programme successfully.

OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THE SPEAKER.

Mr. Speaker : It is a matter for gratification that our Government has lifted control over wheat which is so essential a commodity for everybody's consumption. When the Chief Minister was making this announcement I was thinking of the Mahatma's statement which he had made after the attainment of Independence that all the controls would be lifted in free India. But the peculiar circumstances obtaining in our country did not permit the Government to take any effective step in this direction. Now I express my immense gratitude for the step that our Government has taken which would particularly benefit the poor people.

Next, I would like to say something about the attitude of Sardar Khem Singh which he displayed on the floor of this House yesterday. Firstly, he was not right in raising the point of order as he did not

know the rules of procedure and conduct of business of the Assembly. Secondly, he hurled vague allegations upon me and ultimately staged a walk-out which was quite improper. I am well aware that he is not fully conversant with the rules and regulations of the working of the Assembly. Besides, being a member of the Congress Assembly Party he should not have adopted such tactics and I hope that he would withdraw his remarks.

Sardar Khem Singh (Amritsar) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of great regret that at the time of making my speech yesterday I was compelled to stage a walk-out......

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member must unconditionally withdraw those objectionable words which he uttered yesterday. If he does not do so, I will take some suitable action against him.

Sardar Khem Singh : Sir, I withdraw those words.

THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (ALLOWANCES OF MEMBERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Legislative Assembly (Allowances of Members) (Amendment) Bill, as originally passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly, be passed again.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Legislative Assembly (Allowances of Members) (Amendment) Bill, as originally passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly, be passed again.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Sir, we request you kindly to allow us to say something.

Mr. Speaker : This is just a formal motion—a technical thing. In fact, this motion should have been moved at the time when the amendment made in the Bill by the Council was rejected. It was due to an oversight that a motion to the effect that the 'Bill as originally passed by the Assembly be passed again' was not moved at that time. This very technical omission is now being made good.

Sardar Harkishan Singh Surjit : Sir, we too were labouring under a misunderstanding due to this technical omission; we may, therefore, be allowed to say something now.

Shri Wadhawa Ram : Sir, making a submission to these Ministers time and again is just like playing music to a stone deaf person.

Mr. Speaker : The merits of the Bill are not under discussion at the moment. You have already done that. This is only a formal motion which should have been made when the amendment made by the Council was rejected.

Chief Minister : This Bill has already been discussed at great length and I do not think that any further discussion on it is necessary. To save time, I would request my hon. Friends opposite not to make any speeches on it and pass it immediately.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Legislative Assembly (Allowances of Members) (Amendment) Bill, as originally passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly, be passed again.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ALLOWANCES OF MEMBERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Legislative Council (Allowances of Members) (Amendment) Bill, as originally passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly, be passed again.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Legislative Council (Allowances of Members) (Amendment) Bill, as originally passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly, be passed again.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Legislative Council (Allowances of Members) (Amendment) Bill, as originally passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly, be passed again.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB VILLAGE COMMON LANDS (REGULATION) BILL—CONSIDERATION OF—

Shri Sant Ram (Nakodar) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was speaking about the 'shamilat' land. I was submitting that after the attainment of independence the Congress Government has introduced three commendable reforms which have resulted in raising our nation in the estimation of the people. Firstly, the Congress Government has removed the long-existing disparity between the other classes of society and the Harijans, carpenters, blacksmiths, etc., who were called 'kammis' and who in spite of their being human beings were treated differently. They were treated with hatred by other sections of the society. The Congress Government has now removed the inequality which was a slur on the name of our country. Secondly, a small number of people used to join together and make an Assembly of their own in which a very small representation was afforded to the poor people. Thanks are due to the Congress Government for giving adequate representation to the poor people. Thirdly, if a poor man ever built a house of his own he was not invested with the right of its ownership and whenever

the zamindar wanted he could turn him out of his only place of shelter. But now our Government has conferred the right of ownership on these poor people. Mr. Speaker, these poor people had to face indescribable difficulties so much so that sometimes they were prevented from cremating their dead persons. I express my immense gratitude to the Government for introducing this piece of beneficial legislation. Now even a Harijan labourer of India will be able to walk with his head high. Sir, yesterday, an hon. Member had made derogatory remarks about Bhagat Guran Dass, although he had withdrawn them afterwards. He does not know what useful services Bhagat Guran Dass has rendered to our country.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Bill, be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSES (2) AND (3).

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clauses, (2) and (3), of Clause 1, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker : I have received a notice of some amendments from Chaudhri Rizaq Ram. He may please move them.

Chaudhri Rizaq Ram (Rai) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

(1) That sub-clause (a) be deleted.
(2) That sub-clause (e), be deleted.
(3) That the following words be added at the end of sub-clause (g) :—
"and where there is no Panchayat the inhabitants of the village till a Panchayat is duly constituted."

Sir, there are villages where Panchayats have not been constituted as yet and it is possible that they may not have any Panchayats for some time. Now in its present form this Act will not come into force in those villages. I have, therefore, moved this amendment so that the Act may become applicable to all areas at one and the same time. I hope the amendment will be accepted by the House.

Mr. Speaker : Motions moved—

That sub-clause (a) be deleted.
That sub-clause (e), be deleted.
That the following words be added at the end of sub-clause (g) :—
"and where there is no panchayat the inhabitants of the village till a Panchayat is duly constituted."

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (a), be deleted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (e), be deleted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the following words be added at the end of sub-clause (g) :—

"and where there is no Panchayat the inhabitants of the village till a Panchayat is duly constituted."

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Shri Chand Ram Ahlawat (Jhajjar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the following be substituted for the sub-clause (a) :—

"which is included in the Shamilat Deh, Shamilat Pana, or Shamilat Patti including non-partitioned vacant sites in the Abadi Deh of any village shall at the commencement of this Act, vest in a Panchayat having jurisdiction of the village."

That for sub-clause (b) the following be substituted :—

"which is situated in the Abadi Deh of a village and which is under the house, court-yard, walled or not, Baras, Gitwars, Bartans and manure pits owned or occupied by a non-proprietor as such, shall at the commencement of this Act vest in the said non-proprietors."

Sir, there are "pana" common lands and "patti" common lands in certain villages which are not included in "shamilat-i-deh" (village common land). The object of my amendment is to provide for these common lands being entrusted to the Panchayats along with the village common lands. Thus the amendment seeks to remove a glaring defect in the orignal clause.

Again, there are certain sites in the possession of non-proprietors which are not covered by this clause of the Bill such as enclosures for animals, chaff-heap sites, manure-dumps, etc. My amendment will include them in the clause and remove the lacuna in the Bill. I, therefore, commend these amendments to the House in the hope that they will be readily accepted.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the following be substituted for the sub-clause (a) :—

"which is included in the Shamilat Deh, Shamilat Pana, or Shamilat Patti including non-partitioned vacant sites in the Abadi Deh of any village shall at the commencement of this Act, vest in a Panchayat having jurisdiction of the village."

That for sub-clause (b) the following be substituted :—

"which is situated in the Abadi Deh of a village and which is under the house, court-yard, walled or not, Baras, Gitwars Bartans and manure pits owned or occupied by a non-proprietor as such, shall at the commencement of this Act vest in the said non-proprietors."

Sardar Khem Singh (Amritsar) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I am of the opinion that the amendments moved by my hon. Friend Chaudhri Chand Ram will remove some very vital defects in the Bill and, therefore, I strongly commend them for acceptance of the House.

Shri Maru Singh Malik (Sampla) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I wish to point out that if these amendments are accepted all the enclosures for animals and chaff-heap sites now in the possession of the proprietors will go to the Panchayats, but those in the hands of non-proprietors will remain with the present occupiers who will become their proprietors. Thus proprietors will become non-proprietors and non-proprietors will be raised to the status of proprietors. A careful study of sub-clause (a) and (b) of clause 3 would reveal that with the passage of this Bill all the village common lands will go to the Panchayats but the common lands inside the villages will become the property of the non-proprietors. This will certainly create complications.

Let me bring it to the notice of the House that before the year 1879 the "shamilat-i-abadi" belonged to all the inhabitants of the village but in that year all such lands were entered in records in the name of "khewatdars" according to their respective shares. After the year 1879 those lands have always been considered the property of the proprietors. The lands called "pana shamilat" and "thola shamilat" were contributed by groups of four or five "biswedars" to a common pool out of their own khewats. Now this Bill will give a proprietary share in those lands to non-proprietors also and this will create further complications. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Development not to accept these amendments which are sure to complicate matters.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I assure the Minister for Development of my unstinted support to their schemes which are calculated to vest proprietary rights in Harijans and others who are poorer than zamindars. But it appears to me as if no proper consideration is given to the Bills and amendments which are brought in this House.

The amendment which is now before us has created a very ridiculous position. As a matter of fact, 'Baras' and manure pits are

[Shri Sri Chand]
included in the Abadi-Deh. It means that the amendment seeks to vest the right of ownership of 'Baras' and manure pits situated within the Abadi-Deh to the non-proprietors. They will not be transferred to the Panchayats. But on the other hand the 'Baras' and 'Manure pits' owned in the shamilat-Deh by the proprietors will be placed at the disposal of the Panchayats. This is a discriminatory provision. Therefore, Sir, I sound a note of warning to the Government that it will give rise to a very absurd and queer situation in case the amendment is carried.

Then, Sir, a reference to the question of 'shamilat pana' and 'shamilat Thola' has also been made. Let me first make it clear that the fields which come in the category of 'thola' are not situated at one and the same place. They are not even termed as 'common lands. As a matter of fact, the peasants leave some land to be used, for the purpose of storing water for their cattle within the boundaries of their fields. To accept this amendment would be tantamount to vesting these places, too, in the Panchayats. Truly speaking, this is a kind of private property and not the Shamilat Deh. But it is a matter of deep regret that these are also contemplated to be handed over to the Panchayats.

Apart from this, Sir, I may remind the Minister for Development of what I observed during the course of my previous speech. I was quite hopeful that he would definitely bring forward an amendment of that kind. But it did not happen. Let me, therefore, repeat what I remarked earlier. I took a serious objection to vesting proprietary rights in the Panchayats when the Land Revenue of such lands was duly paid by the proprietors themselves. What a ridiculous position it is! Is it not a specific instance of discrimination? I feel that this is an act of injustice.

Minister for Development : It would not happen like this.

Shri Sri Chand : He himself said that the income accruing to the shamilat............

Mr. Speaker : You should accept what he has said now.

Shri Sri Chand : I do not find any such provision in it. But one thing I am certain about is this that you would not get the assent of the President to this Bill; for it embodies an extremely discriminatory provision which is undoubtedly *ultra-vires* the Constitution. I am sure that there are responsible and sensible people in the Central Government. They would not give their blind assent to this Bill. I would, therefore, suggest to the Government to draft some comprehensive Bill.

Then, Sir, it provide for placing the income from the shamilats at the disposal of the Panchayats. I wonder wherefrom will the Panchayats manage to pay their land revenue. Wherefrom would they realise the money which was likely to be spent on their maintenance? It is also not improbable that besides meeting the maintenance charges from the income accruing from the shamilat land, the Panchayats may be required to pay their land revenue as well. But how much income will accrue fro shamilats? I would request the

Minister-in-charge to give a careful thought to all these aspects of the matter before the Bill is passed.

Shri Rizaq Ram (Rai) (*Hindi*) : Sir, some hon. Members have opposed the amendment which is now before the House. Firstly, they have declared it to be most discriminatory to vest the right of ownership of the lands occupied by the biswedars in the non-proprietors and transfer the lands owned by the biswedars to the Panchayats. Secondly, they have objected as to why the Tholi, Patti and Pana lands should be included in the definition of 'shamilat.'

Had they studied this amendment closely and minutely they would have came to know that the Tholi land is not included in it. Shamilat Deh includes 'Pana' and 'Patti' only and not 'Tholi' land. As for 'Patti' it has been observed that this type of land is not owned by any particular person but like shamilat Deh, 'patti' is a common land. If there is no shamilat land in any particular village, it is the 'Patti' which is utilised for common purposes. In the circumstances, what discrimination would it result in if the proprietary rights of this common land are also vested in the Panchayats? I do not think it involves any such question. There would, of course, be discrimination if the ownership of such type of land were to be transferred to a single person. But it passes my comprehension as to how there would be any discrimination in including it in the shamilat Deh.

Apart from this, Sir, had these hon. Members gone through sub-clause (a) of this clause, they would have noted that it specifically embodies a provision to the effect that the area which is included within the definition of shamilat Deh of any village, shall vest in a Panchayat having jurisdiction over the village. Moreover, as regards the Bill in general and this clause in particular, it embodies such a provision which seeks to confer equal rights on both the biswedars and non-biswedars. It is, as a matter of fact, the intention of the legislation to treat them on an equal footing. Therefore, I do not think any discrmination would result if this amendment is accepted.

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, since the Bill which the Government have introduced in this House will greatly benefit the non-proprietors, I attach a special significance to it. I am of the view, Sir, that in the days of yore when the land was inhabited by the human beings, there was a perfect equality of status, position and privileges amongst all of them. There was no discrimination whatsoever between a zamindar and a non-zamindar. Nobody would have any objection if anyone else was to dwell on, cultivate or use any piece of land in whatever form he liked. All enjoyed equal rights both in the 'abadi' and the forests. Every body had full liberty to construct his house at the site of his own choice and live a happy and contented life. But by and by there was a change in the outlook of the world. The population began to increase. New political parties came into existence and propagated their ideologies with the result that a gulf began to be created between the Harijans or non-proprietors and the zamindars who inhabited the villages. Now such a peculiar stage has been reached that those poor people are neither allowed to construct their houses in the

[Minister for Irrigation]

villages nor are they permitted to enjoy those privileges and amenities which they previously used to enjoy. Not to speak of allowing them to erect a dwelling, they are denied even the right to graze their cattle on the common lands. But now when we desire to give equal rights and opportunity to everybody, now when we are an independent and secular State, now when we are determined to end this State of disparity and discrimination it is imperative to take some bold, effective and significant step in this direction to achieve the cherished end. Therefore, I cannot help saying that the step taken in this direction by the hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, the Minister for Development, is a very laudable one and he deserves congratulations.

An hon. Member from the Opposition Benches has enquired about the fate which the shamilats are to meet. He has enquired as to who will pay their land revenue? I would like to assure him that the Government does not mean to leave them without deriving any benefit from them. The shamilats will be converted into farms. Irrigation Department will supply them as much water as may be required for their cultivation. Besides, Dairy Farms will be set up on these lands with a view to providing milk to those families who do not even get whey and 'Lassi. Verdant lands where previously vegetables and waving 'sarson' crops used to grow, were destroyed and rendered unculturable at the instance of the leaders of the Zamindara Party mainly with the object of depriving these poor people from the benefit accruing to them. What a terrible injustice that on the one hand the priviledged rich class should eat a number of fruits and vegetables but on the other the poor peasants and helpless tillers of the land be denied even two square meals a day! I cannot find appropriate words, Sir, to describe the atrocities perpetrated by the 'biswedars' on the non-proprietors by every means possible both before and after the last general elections.

Shri Sri Chand : My submission is that he is discussing some individual case. This is not relevant. I would request the Chair kindly to ask the hon. Minister to speak on this particular clause of the Bill and not restart a general discussion on it.

Minister for Irrigation : I know the Rules. I am speaking on clause 3. I want to place real facts before the House. What is the use of that leadership which is established after uprooting the people?

Shri Sri Chand : I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, as to why he is not being prevented from speaking in these terms?

Minister for Irrigation : Who is he to direct me like that?

Mr. Speaker : He is asking me to request you to please confine your remaks to the motion only.

Minister for Irrigation : I am speaking to the motion, Sir. How long can such a leadership last?

Shri Sri Chand : In case, Sir, he is reluctant to submit to your ruling, we will be compelled to pay him in the same coin.

Minister for Irrigation : There is no question of leadership in it. I beg to submit that we must provide relief wherever it is needed. Some of my friends referred to the attainment of independence on the 15th of August and the declaration of Indian Republic on the 26th January. Do they mean to say that independence should mean only the departure of the British but the vested interest should continue enjoying their privileges They should know that this state of affairs cannot continue indefinitely. The granting of proprietary rights in Shamilat Deh is a very noble step. This is in fact the best act which the Punjab Government has done. It was asked as to who would pay the land revenue in respect of such lands and who would manage these. I wish to inform the hon. Members that vegetable farms would be started on these lands and those people who do not get vegetables now will get these free of cost. Dairy farms will be opened on these and the people will be able to get milk. We have to raise this State and the whole country. The inclusion of 'gitwaras' and 'Kurarhis' has been objected to by some hon. Members. Do they want to deprive the people of 'gitwaras' where chaff is stored? I find nothing objectionable or unjust in their inclusion in this measure. Why should the poor people not be given rights over 'gitwaras' and 'kurarhis'? There is nothing illegal in giving such rights to the non-proprietors. We should give up narrow-mindedness and try to be broad-minded.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon : (Jhabal) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, I have risen to support the amendment. One of my friends advanced a novel argument when he said that the passage of this Bill will convert proprietors into non-proprietors and the non-proprietors into proprietors. The non-proprietors will no doubt become proprietors because that is the object of the Bill, but I fail to understand how the proprietors will become non-proprietors. There has been a lot of controversy about the amendment relating to 'patis'. As is the case with Shamilat, some lands in 'patis'. are also meant for the common use of the villagers. The acceptance of this amendment will not affect the spirit of the Bill and I would request the hon. Members to accept it.

Sardar Partap Singh (Mallanwala) : Sir, I beg to move—

That at the end of the Clause, the following new part be added :—

"(c) Shamilat Deh, shall not include the thrashing fields, already owned by the cultivators."

All kinds of people cultivate lands in the villages and the thrashing fields are not shown in the revenue records as any person's property, nor do these form part of Abadi Deh. Through my amendment, I want to save the petty peasants from the hardships which the inclusion of thrashing fields is likely to cause them. Petty zamindars and tenants will have no other place on which to thrash their corn. Thrashing makes the ground hard and no zamindar would allow his tenants to thrash their produce on his land. After the passage of this Bill the petty landowners will have to damage

[Sardar Partap Singh]
their own fields by using them for thrashing purposes. We enact laws for the benefit of the common people and we should consider everything before passing these.

The Government should frame a measure after careful consideration and should see that it is for the good of the people of the State. If the Government does not accept my amendment then though the big zamindars may not be put to an appreciable loss but the small landholders who have no spare land will certainly suffer much. Under these circumstances, I would request the Government to accept my amendment.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That at the end of the Clause, the following new part be added :—

"(c) Shamilat Deh, shall not include the thrashing fields, already owned by the cultivators."

Shri Sadhu Ram (Naraingarh) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That to part (a) the following explanation be added :—

"Explanation : Shamilat Deh, means any land entered in the revenue record as Shamilat Deh or uncultivated land in a village which is used for common purposes or which is managed by Forest Department under the Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900, (Punjab Act, II of 1900) as modified up to the 1st July, 1944, or by Soil Conservation Societies under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (XVI of 1927)."

Sir, while speaking in support of my amendment I would draw the attention of the Government to a very important problem. It has been stated in the statement of objects and reasons of this Bill that the Government intends to confer upon the non-proprietary classes the rights in the shamilat land. According to this Bill such people will get relief who do not enjoy any benefit in the Abadi Deh according to revenue records. Whereas the non-proprietary classes in villages of the Punjab will rejoice at the passing of this Bill, it will cause great disappointment to the people in such villages where there are no shamilat lands. I may submit that it is not at all the intention of the Government to deny protection to the people who are feeling aggrieved at the hands of the proprietary body of the village and have not been able to get protection in the revenue records for political considerations. My amendment will solve this problem. Our Congress Government wants to afford protection to all these people. I can say of the tehsil in my constituency that there is in it one village extending over an area of one square of land which is owned by a proprietary body. If my amendment is not accepted the non-proprietary class and the Harijans will be put to a great difficulty. So far as the management of shamilat land by the Forest Department under the Punjab Land Preservation Act 1900 or by the Soil Conservation Societies is concerned, I would request the Government that the proprietary body be relinquished of the rights of Shamilat land. Now the non-proprietary classes have to feel grateful to the proprietary body in villages for grazing their cattle. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Development to accept this amendment in order to afford relief to such persons.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That to part (a) the following explanation be added :

"Explanation : Shamilat Deh, means any land entered in the revenue record as Shamilat Deh or uncultivated land in a village which is used for common purposes or which is managed by Forest Department under the Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900, (Punjab Act, II of 1900) as modified up to the 1st July, 1944, or by Soil Conservation Societies under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (XVI of 1927)."

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I would like to say something in reply to the points raised by my hon. Friend representing Mallanwala Constituency in his speech. Now the proprietary rights of thrashing fields which are included in Shamilats have been given to the Panchayats. In this way no person in the villages will feel any difficulty in using these fields. These fields have been included in the Shamilat and the Panchayats have been given full powers to allow every peasant to thrash the corn in those fields. In villages the zamindars do not hesitate in allowing any peasant to make use of their land for thrashing their crops. In case any difficulty is experienced by the peasants in this direction, necessary steps will be taken to remove it. My hon. Friend has also referred to certain things in the course of his speech which have absolutely no connection with this Bill. I would, therefore, ask my hon. Friend Shri Sadhu Ram to withdraw his amendment because if any difficulty is brought to the notice of the Government it will take steps to remove it.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the following be substituted for the sub-clause (2) :—

"which is included in the Shamilat Deh, Shamilat Pana, or Shamilat Patti including non-partitioned vacant sites in the Abadi Deh of any village shall at the commencement of this Act, vest in a Panchayat having jurisdiction of the village."

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That for sub-clause (b) the following be substituted :—

"which is situated in the Abadi Deh of village and which is under the house, court-yard, walled or not, Baras, Gitwars Bartans and manure pits owned or occupied by a non-proprietor as such, shall at the commencement of this Act vest in the said non-proprietors."

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That at the end of the Clause, the following new part be added :—

"(c) Shamilat Deh, shall not include the thrashing fields, already owned by the cultivators."

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That to part (a) the following explanation be added :

"Explanation : Shamilat Deh, means any land entered in the revenue record as Shamilat Deh or uncultivated land in a village which is used for common purposes or which is managed by Forest Department under the Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900, (Punjab Act, II of 1900) as modified up to the 1st July, 1944, or by Soil Conservation Societies under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (XVI of 1927).'

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Before the next clause is taken up, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important matter. I have to say with regret that the members of this House irrespective of the party to which they belong are not maintaining silence as is expected of them. Most of them seem to be under the impression that they meet here to talk to one another. I may remind them that if at all they have to talk they must not raise their voice beyond a whisper; for conversation they may please go into the lobbies. Carrying on conversation in the House not only creates disturbance but mars the decorum also. The manner in which some members were conversing with one another just now can in no case be tolerated. I appeal to all the members to respect the Rules in letter as well as spirit.

CLAUSE 4

Shri Sadhu Ram (Naraingarh) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That in line 4, for the word "village", the words "Panchayat area" be substituted.

This amendment has a close connection with clause 6 and in fact the latter will not be complete without incorporating it. In clause 4 as it stands now it has been provided that the income accruing from the Shamilat land will be utilised for the good of the village concerned while on the other hand clause 6 provides for the depositing of this income in the Panchayat Fund. Since every village is not to have a panchayat of its own and there will be quite a number of Panchayats formed by grouping several small villages, it is not proper and correct to provide on the one hand that the income accruing from the Shamilat land will be utilised for promoting the well-being of the residents of the village concerned and to provide on the other hand in clause 6 that the said income will be deposited in the Panchayat Fund. The whole position will become clear if the words 'Panchayat Area' are substituted for the word 'village' in this clause which is now under consideration. This amendment is also necessary to complete the meaning of clause 6. With these words, Sir, I request that this amendment may be accepted.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That in line 4, for the word "village", the words "Panchayat area" be substituted.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Karion) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I am afraid the hon. Member is labouring under a misunderstanding. If there will be a common Panchayat for a number of small villages, it does not follow that the Shamilats of all of them will be pooled or that the income accruing from each one of them will be utilised for the good of the entire Panchayat area. It is, of course, true that the Panchayat will have the financial stewardship of the income of each village but it is equally true that it shall be spent on the promotion of the well-being of the residents of the village concerned.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in line 4, for the word "village", the words "Panchayat area" be substituted.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 4, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 5, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 6

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 6, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 7

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 7, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 8

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 8, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 9

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 9, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 10

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon (Jhabal) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That subsection (g), of sub-clause 2, be renumbered as (h), and a new sub-clause be added after sub-clause (f).

(g) payment of land revenue rates and cesses or other Government dues for the lands vested in the Panchayat by the Panchayat.

This amendment has a very simple object, namely, to provide that the dues, land revenue, etc., of the landvested in the Panchayats shall be paid by them and not by the individual owners of that land. Nobody can have any objection to the acceptance of this amendment.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That subsection (g) of sub-clause 2, be renumbered as (h), and a new sub-clause be added after sub-clause (f).

(g) payment of land revenue, rates and cesses or other Government dues for the lands vested in the Panchayat by the Panchayat.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That subsection (g), of sub-clause 2, be renumbered as (h), and a new sub-clause be added after sub-clause (f).

(g) payment of land revenue, rates and cesses or other Government dues for the lands vested in the Panchayat by the Panchayat.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 10, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clause (1) of Clause 1, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Bill, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Bill, be passed.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) (*Hindi*) : Sir, in my opinion this is a Bill in the passage of which the Opposition will gladly extend its support to the Government because it is a reform measure. Had more measures of this character been introduced in the House in this session, I would have had no differences with the Cabinet. However, I give this credit to the hon. Minister for Development that all the Bills that have been brought forward by him have been actuated by progressive ideas. (*Cheers*). If any Bill has been passed during the current session with the purpose of taking the masses forward, it is this Bill which is now being passed. We can proudly tell the masses that there may have been left any defects in other Bills, but so far as this bill is concerned, it is absolutely free from any defect. I feel pleased to say that at least all the Bills that have been introduced by the hon. Minister for Development, are of a progressive nature. I once again congratulate him for this fact.

Shri Maru Singh Malik (Sampla) (*Hindi*): Sir, there can be no difference of opinion with regard to the object of this Bill. I fully agree with the policy underlying this Bill. You might be remembering that I had put forth an amendment at the time when the Gram Panchayat Bill was under discussion. The purpose of that amendment was the same which this Bill now fulfils. But it appears from the amendments that have been moved in the House to-day that an effort has been made to push those for whose benefit this Bill is said to have been introduced into litigation. This Bill has been brought forth with the avowed object of enabling the people of the villages to live in happiness, peace and mutual affection and with the object of improving their standard of living. But now an effort has been made to create disputes among them through these amendments. The purpose of this Bill was to put an end to the disputes which arose from time to time over the possession of Shamilat Deh—a bone of contention between the biswedars and the Harijans by declaring the Shamilat Deh as the common property of all the residents of the village. But now provision is being made for Gitwaras and Baras which would become the cause of disputes. And then if any man continues to store dust, etc., at a certain open place his possession does not become permanent. Similar other things have also been incorporated in this bill, which will increase the disputes between the Harijans and the proprietors in the villages. I would request the hon. Members sitting on the Government Benches that they should not use this measure for purposes of party propaganda. On

[Shri Maru Singh Malik]
the other hand, they, and especially those who wish to benefit the Harijans, should try to benefit them in the true sense of the word, and not try to take personal advantage like politicians creating dissensions among them.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, it was five years ago that this country achieved independence. But this independence was used by certain persons for their personal benefit. When the people living in the villages protested that their independence was non-existent, our hon. Minister declared proudly that they were giving them freedom through this Bill. He told them that they had prepared a charter of freedom for them. The fact of the matter, however, is that when their hands had been weakened on account of the pressure from the public, they had to give this little bit of freedom in the matter of Shamilat Deh in the villages to the poor non-proprietors.

In hundreds and thousands of villages where revenue settlements took place long ago, people constructed their huts and houses, etc. Our Government has been blindly following the 'red' line of demarcation that was drawn during those settlements. But now it has started a double march. On the one hand, houses are allotted to the people and on the other hand, Shamilat land is also allotted to the displaced persons by declaring it agricultural land. In spite of this fact, it is said that everybody has equal share in the Shamilat Deh. In this connection, I am reminded of an incident. There was a military pensioner. When he went to get his pension, the Treasury Officer told him that he could not get his pension since he had died according to the official records. The pensioner tried his utmost to convince the Treasury Officer that he was alive and he should be paid his pension. But who cared for what he said? The officer said that the pension could not be paid since the man had died according to the official records. In the same way, this Government is blindly following the records. It says that the land on which houses are constructed, should be declared Shamilat land simply because that land comes within the 'red' boundary line according to the previous settlements. In spite of this, it is declared from house-tops that the Harijans are being given freedom. I say that they have got hardly one-hundredth part of full freedom through this Bill.

My hon. Friend who has been a part of the Unionist Government in the past and who has been urging upon the Harijans to declare Hindi as their mother tongue, is trying to become a Chaudhri. I would submit that one does not get honour (Chaudhramma) in this way. One gets honour by giving real freedom to the people. If you honestly want to help the harijans, then give land to the Harijan who cultivates land. The real cause of his poverty is his economic helplessness. Give him economic freedom so that he may be able to heave a sigh of relief. But the difficulty is that freedom lies in the pockets of the people belonging to a certain class. How can they give it to others unless they are forced to do so? I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to give land to the Harijans who need it, to make arrangements for supplying leather at cheap rates to those who make shoes and to make arrangements for supplying yarn at

cheap rates to those who are engaged in weaving industry so that the problem of their livelihood may be solved. The Harijans will be free in the real sense of the word when they achieve economic independence. The freedom that is being given by the hon. Minister is just hypocrisy and a propaganda stunt.

Shri Ram Parkash (Molana) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I have risen to support this Bill. It has been long delayed, although a measure of this kind should have been brought forth much earlier than now. Ever since the previous Ministry declared that everybody would be given equal rights over the Shamilat Deh, the zamindars have become very cautious and clever. Seeing that the Harijans would also become equal partners in the Shamilat Deh, the zamindars started its division. During the last five years, three-fourths of the Shamilat Deh has already been divided and perhaps only one-fourth of it has now been left when the Government has provided through this Bill that the non-proprietors i.e., the Harijans would be equal partners in the ownership of the Shamilat Deh. In spite of the fact that three-fourths of the Shamilat Deh has already been divided among the zamindars, they are opposing giving proprietary rights to the Harijans. They should not forget that for centuries these poor Harijans have been giving the fruit of their labour to them and to-day when they have got some little breath of freedom, they should not stand in their way.

These poor Harijans have to face acute hardships in the matter of houses in the villages. A person having four sons can manage somehow by sleeping along with his sons out in the open in the summer. But in winter, it becomes difficult for all the fifteen or twenty men and women of the house to pass their nights huddled together in one small room. These poor people have to remain huddled in that single room no better than the Black Hole. I, would, therefore, request my zamindar brethren not to oppose this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, one thing that I wish to bring to the notice of the House is in connection with the consolidation of holdings. I am to submit that owing to this work the poor Harijans are faced with a great housing difficulty. In summer these poor people can sleep in the open but then what are they to do in winter? The Government should do something to remove this difficulty of the Harijans.

The last thing relates to the strained relations between the zamindars and the Harijans. Generally the zamindars are in league with the police and get the Harijans challaned. I am to submit that the Police should be instructed not to bring false cases against the Harijans.

Shri Sri Chand (Bahadurgarh) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I wish to point out that the way in which this Bill is being discussed by my learned Friends is wrong. Nobody from this side has suggested that the Harijans should not be given a share in the common land. When the Bill was introduced for the first time not only I but all the hon. Members said that not only the Harijans but all poor people should be entitled to a share in the Shamilat. No hon. Member disagrees with this point of view. But it is now being said that we are opposing this proposal. This is absolutely wrong. I wish to tell my Harijan friends that this Bill is being passed for purposes of propaganda

[Shri Sri Chand]
only and in fact it is calculated to benefit the rich people and not them. What we say is only this that the property of the poor should not be given to the rich. It is wrong in principle. If we start doing things like that there will be no end to them. My Harijan friends should also know that their sympathisers are people who bring false cases by breaking the legs of dead persons and who find enjoyment in setting fire to their huts. (*An hon. Mmber*: It is wrong to say so). I am in a position to say that a person died in Jatana. . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : Order, Order. The hon. Member should try to be relevant.

Shri Sri Chand : Sir, you will appreciate that irrelevant questions give rise to irrelevant answers. Anyhow, I leave this point here. I may be allowed to submit that when Article 31-A of the Constitution was being amended for purposes of acquiring an estate for a public purpose without payment of compensation. Pandit Nehru had come forth with an assurance in reply to the criticism which had been made in the House. He gave the assurance that the term estate' in the Punjab did not mean the same thing as it did in U.P. or Bihar etc. And as it here included the lands of small zamindars also, the President would not give his assent to similar Acts passed by the Punjab Government. All this can be verified from the proceedings of the Parliament. I wish to point out to Sardar Sahib that this Bill is calculated to acquire land from the small zamindars without compensation for purposes of benefiting others and I think that the President will not give his assent to it in accordance with that assurance.

Sir, the Government claims that it does not discriminate between different classes of people. I wish to say that discrimination is being brought into existence between the zamindars and the non-proprietors in the matter of ownership of houses, gitwaras and manure pits. It is not good to do so.

Mention has been made of the Shamilat Path. It is strange that the amendment relating to it has been accepted without studying it and without caring to see the results it will produce. The lands attached to some wells have, of course, been divided but lands of others are being collectively cultivated. Does the Government wish to give all such wells to the Panchayats ? I think this matter requires careful study before any action is taken. If any such thing is done, it will cause a great unrest in the whole of the Punjab. The lands of numerous wells in Gurgaon have not been divided and are cultivated by the zamindars in turns. Does the Government wish to give all such wells to the Panchayats? It has been said that the Panchayat will pay the land revenue but from where and how ? Will the land revenue be paid out of the income from the shamilat.

I am sure no income would accrue from these shamilat lands and, as such, Panchayats would not be able to make any payment. It will give rise to new difficulties in the smooth running of administration. As the Revenue Act is not going to be amended it would come into conflict with this Bill when it becomes a law.

Shri Mam Chand (Gohana) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I have risen to support the Bill introduced by Sardar Partap Singh. One year has elapsed since we were elected as Members of this House and during this period whenever we have been going to our constituencies the poor Harijans have been enquiring from us if any legislation has been passed to ameliorate their lot. But we have not been able to give them any satisfactory reply. Now that this Bill has been introduced in this House by the hon. Minister for Development for their benefit and advantage the poor Harijans throughout the State would rejoice. Prior to this legislation they had no life worth the name or respect in the real sense of the word. Their condition was disheartening and distressing; they had no houses of their own to live in. It is a thousand pities that though insects like ants possess their holes and birds like doves have their nests to live in, the poor Harijans have no homes.

In this connection I would particularly mention the case of my district. In Rohtak District alone, many atrocities were perpetrated on these poor people. The hon. Members adorning the Opposite Benches say that this Bill would do no good to the Harijans and it has been designed to benefit the rich people. In this regard I would like to submit that in my ilaqa potters, carpenters, blacksmiths and other Harijans have deserted most villages under coercion and constraint. As you are aware, Sir, the poor potters make pots after putting in hard labour but the zamindars take them away without paying anything for them. Particularly, in my village Jagsi strange 'laws' i.e. the 'laws' of their own making are observed by the zamindars. Mr. Speaker, it is a custom that when a Harijan dies his brother puts a 'dopatta' on his wife. But you would be astonished to hear that in my village Jats living in other mohallas perform this ceremony as a result of which the children of the widowed woman are divided like goats and sheep.

Sir, there are hon. Members in this House who aspire to become proprietors of vast lands but the poor Harijans only want that they should be made owners of their small cottages. Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of a story. Once a maid servant fell down on the ground. Her mother came running on hearing her voice and said that a hole may be pierced in her ears. What I mean to submit is that the Harijans may be made the sole owners of the Shamilat lands. I am pleased that Sardar Partap Singh has acted upon the advice of Mahatma Gandhi who left his own seven storeyed house and started living in the Harijans' Basti. Similarly, Sardar Partap Singh himself being son of a zamindar has introduced this Bill for the benefit of the Harijans entirely. With these words I congratulate him on this act of sympathy which he has shown to the Harijans.

Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut (Tanda) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, the legislation which has been today introduced by our Development Minister in this House was, as a matter of fact, long-awaited. This disparity was a slur on our society and it was absolutely essential for us to remove it long before. There is no denying the fact that in villages the proprietors did not even allow the non-proprietors to enter the shamilat lands. It is extremely gratifying that the land is proposed to be reserved for the common use of the villagers and kept under the charge of the Panchayats. But, Mr. Speaker, if we

[Sardar Chanan Singh Dhut]
observe minutely the village life—I think the hon. Members are not fully conversant with it—it would be quite clear that the present reform would not benefit the Harijans to such an extent as has been assured to them. I make bold to say that the Harijans and the small land-holders are treated alike by the big zamindars. Under the circumstances, I would suggest that the Harijans should not be overjoyed on this legislation.

Sir, in villages Harijans usually live on one side of the abadi. The zamindars have already usurped all the 'Shamilat' land'. What I mean to submit is that the circumstances are such as would not let the Harijans derive any advantage out of this legislation. So far as the Shamilat land outside the village is concerned it has already been brought under the scheme of the Consolidation of Land Holdings and no land has been left as Shamilat. What I mean to say is that no land would be available for the Harijans to build their houses upon. They are rejoicing that they have been given real independence today but I would like to bring this point home to them that this is not an unalloyed happiness, the reason being that the consolidation operations have been carried out as a result of which the land has been re-distributed amongst the zamindars. If the Government really wants to help them, I would suggest that some land out of it should be specifically earmarked for them.

Sardar Khem Singh (Amritsar) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, it is gratifying that our veteran general and lion hearted leader Sardar Partap Singh, has by introducing this legislation in this House sought to liberate the Scheduled Castes from the centuries old serfdom and for this reason I would heartily felicitate him. However, I would like to point out to him that we people pass different measures in this House with a view to benefiting the public at large but when their implementation is entrusted to the various departments of the Government the officers display great carelessness in the discharge of their duties in this respect. The result is that instead of proving beneficial to the people these measures prove harmful to them. I want, therefore, to request the Government to take steps to see that the provisions of this Bill may be fully enforced.

Mr. Speaker, during his regime, Maharaja Ranjit Singh had also thought of helping the poor and brave Harijans. With this end in view he put a resolution before his Cabinet to the effect that the 'Shamilat Deh' may be allotted to the Harijans. But his companion generals did not agree to it just as some of the hon. Members are opposing it to-day. This is all wrong. Even at that time the Jagirdars flatly told the Maharaja that they had no right to act in that manner. Not only that. They actually threatened to kill the Maharaja if the resolution was not withdrawn. The result was that the Maharaja asked his Minister, Dhayan Singh Dogra, to withdraw the resolution. Thus, Sir, even at that time the Jats did not allow such a resolution to be passed and implemented. Now our Government is going to enact this law in spite of these people and we are being given proprietary rights on those common lands on account of which these people used to exploit us.

Minister for Labour (Chaudhri Sunder Singh) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, this Bill has been brought forward after long and continuous efforts and I must express gratitude to the hon. Minister for Development, to the hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh and my other colleagues for the keen interest shown and efforts made in this connection. This Bill now reminds me of Mahatma Gandhi who brought about such a revolution in the Congress as well as in the notions of democracy that even those people who do not want to ameliorate the condition of Harijans have not the courage to oppose such measures openly. It was Mahatma Gandhi who produced these kind-hearted leaders who advocate the cause of the Harijans and want them to enjoy the rights proposed in this Bill. I may point out that I have been trying to bring forward a measure of this kind since 1947. Once I actually brought a Bill before the House and it was duly printed and published but it could not be enacted into law because the previous Ministry was not willing to do so. Now those people are going to get through this Bill the rights for which I have been making continuous efforts for a long time.

In this connection, I may be allowed to refer to the time when we had the Unionist Government in the Punjab. We held a conference at Kartarpur and invited Sir Chhotu Ram and Sir Sundar Singh Majithia to attend it. We put before them our demand to the effect that the Harijans may be allowed to purchase lands but their reply was that we could not be allowed to purchase even so much as an inch of land. But our present Government is doing its best to meet all our demands. I would like to make it plain to those who are trying to pose as our well-wishers saying that this Bill will bring no relief to the Hariana that they can no longer exploit us by such professions of sympathy because the Harijans now fully understand what is good for them. Previously, the Harijans could not even dream of obtainiing the right to purchase land. But let me make it clear that we are not snatching any rights from any one to give them to the Harijans. We are just giving them the opportunity to enjoy this right in common with others. The Congress Government gave us equal rights in the matter of alienation of land some time ago and now this Bill is giving us some other rights which are equally important. It is fantastic to say that this Bill is designed to take away something from poor people and give it to the rich. I submit, Sir, that there is no rich man left in the rural areas after Chaudhri Chhotu Ram got the law relating to "benami" transactions enacted by the legislature of the united Punjab. Now the whole population of the rural areas consists of poor people only. It is absolutely wrong to say that this Bill is designed to benefit the 'banias' and 'lalas'.

An hon. Friend of mine has put the question as to what the Harijans have got or will get throught this measure. I think, Sir, that by asking this question he has insulted the Harijans. I am of the opinion that the Harijans have every reason to feel happy over this measure. Previously, if any Harijan wanted to build a house or raise a wall in any village a number of zamindars used to threaten him and put obstacles in his way. But now after the passage of this Bill such hardships will become a thing of the past. The credit for the solution of these problems goes to Sardar Partap Singh who has been consulting so many zamindars in order to find out such

[Minister for Labour]

a solution. He has displayed wonderful sincerity and enthusiasm in this connection and his outlook has been progressive in all such matters. The mentality of the hon. Members who declare that the measure will bring no relief or benefit to the Harijans would remind one of the old man of the acrobats whose only business is to express dissatisfaction in spite of the best display of acrobatics by the man actually performing them. Let me tell them that only the Congress is genuinely interested in the welfare of the Harijans. In the end I once again express our gratitude to my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh for having brought forward this Bill.

Shri Daulat Ram Sharma (Hamirpur) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, the more I congratulate the hon. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon the Minister for Development, for the Bill which is now before the House, the less. Much has been said both in favour and against it. From the speech delivered by an hon. Member who is a champion of the cause of the zamindars, it can, in no time, be concluded that he is not in favour of vesting the right of proprietorship in the Harijans, the non-proprietors and the poor downtrodden people inhabiting the villages. Besides, in order to strengthen his arguments, he has referred to Article 31 of the Constitution of India which forbids the Governments to acquire any property without paying due compensation for it to the party concerned. It undoubtedly means, that he is deadly opposed to this Bill. But on the contrary the consensus of public opinion is such that it is no longer prepared to tolerate the perpetuation of such highhandedness and acts of injustice which tend to widen the gulf between the two sections of the Society i.e., the rich and the poor; the high and the low. He has very cleverly and stylishly argued that Article 31 of the Constitution is the main hurdle in the way of the passage of this Bill. My submission is that through this Bill it is not the Government to whom these Shamilat lands are contemplated to be transferred. The lands of the people will be transferred to their own brethren. Even the statement of Objects and Reasons appended to this Bill makes it clear that when the villages were originally founded, the Shamilats were really meant for the use of all the inhabitants of the village. But by and by the so called proprietary bodies of the villages appropriated to themselves the ownership of these lands with the result that all the rights of the non-proprietors were forfeited altogether. These very rights are now being re-invested in the latter category of the people. These rights will collectively vest in all the villagers through their respective Panchayats. The Government is, not at all arrogating them to itself. Had this property been acquired by the Government, it must have paid its due compensation to its owners. But now the question of compensation does not, at all, arise.

Apart from this, Sir, an hon. Member who professes to be of progressive views has remarked to have found nothing subtantial in this Bill. To him I would simply say that the sun is shining. Our progressive Government is marching ahead on the road to progress. I can make bold to remark that these steps which are now being taken one after the other by our Government are surely calculated to benefit the common man. In the end, therefore, I am to say that the sun of progress can be seen only by the people who are awake and have their eyes open.

Shri Rala Ram (Mukerian) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, today is the most auspicious day because this is the day when such a significant Bill is going to be passed which seeks to provide an opportunity to live an honourable life in the villages for those downtrodden people who have been subjected to incalulable oppression and suppression from times immemorial. This is not an ordinary matter. I am of the opinion Sir, that this step gives substance to the freedom which we attained as a result of a long struggle. This Bill will now remove the sword of Democles which has, all along in the past, been hanging over the heads of our poor brethren, the Harijans and the so called 'kamis' living in the villages. The practice in vogue heretofore was that the debris and earth had to be removed by these people but the lands were owned and occupied by others—the influential persons and high-ups of the village. According to some hon. Members it may be an ordinary step but I feel that the principle embodied in it is bound to bring about far-reaching and significant changes in the present day conditions obtaining in the rural areas. This is why I have described this day, when the Bill is going to be passed, as an auspicious day.

An hon. Member from the Opposition Benches has described this Bill as a defective piece of legislation for, according to him, it aims at taking away certain rights from the poor to be conferred on the rich. I do not understand what prompted my hon. Friend to express this apprehension? The Bill specifically provides that these Shamilats will now vest in the Panchayats. These Panchayats will be the same as will be elected by the villagers in accordance with the provisions made in the recently enacted Gram Panchayat Act. Moreover, the Panchayats will not be the monopoly of any particular section of the people. These will include representatives of all schools of thoughts and all shades of opinion inhabiting the villages. My Harijan brethren will also be represented on these bodies. Even in the matter of election to the Panchayats, a special provision for giving representation to the Harijans in case no Harijan candidate is able to secure a seat through direct election has already been made. Of course, there will be some mahajans and zamindars also in the Panchayats; but they will never be in a majority in them.

In the circumstances, the allegation that the lands are being given to the mahajans and the 'Shahukars' after having snatched them away from the poor is totally wrong and baseless. There is no denying the fact that the Panchayats will be the representative bodies of the entire village. Both the poor and the rich will be its component parts. Moreover, It is an admitted fact that the rich form only a small proportion of the entire village population. Therefore, there is no reason why the poor and the ordinary inhabitants of the area should not form a majority in the Panchayats. It is, therefore, absolutely wrong to say that injustice is being done to the poor section of the masses. I am rather of the view, Sir, that through this Bill an effort has been made to end the slavery of a large section of the rural population. This Bill, when enacted will undoubtedly, raise the prestige of our Government and the Congress Party.

Shri Chand Ram Ahlawat (Jhajjar) (*Hindi*) : Today when this Bill is before the House, I am reminded of all those events which took place during the course of a constant struggle which was aimed at getting this Bill enacted. Those were the events which were piloted not by the Harijans only but the members of other downtrodden communities also raised an equal voice to vest in them the proprietary rights of at least those huts and houses which they had been dwelling in from times immemorial when the villages were originally founded. Today all those events come within my imagination when before the year 1946 and particularly after 15th August, 1947, social and economic boycotts were done with these so-called Harijans almost every village of the State. These boycotts have not ended even as yet. I know of certain villages in my own district where these Harijans were running the business of shoe-making. Sir, I am pained to submit that the zamindars of those villages not only got their business suspended but also got taxes and fines imposed on them without any rhyme or reason. By introducing this Bill, therefore, our Minister for Development has not only put an end to the vested interests of the 'Biswedars' but has also opened a new chapter in the life of the villages by removing for all time the obstacles and impediments that come in the way of 31 lakh non-proprietors and Harijans of the Punjab.

As a matter of fact, there live two types of people in the villages viz. 'haves' and 'have-nots'. The Bill which is today before the House will go a long way to putting an end to the atrocities and injustices meted out to the latter by the former. I think that our Congrss Government have today taken a very significant step forward on the path shown by the late father of the Nation—Mahatma Ghandhi. I remember that when some people from Rohtak organised a *'satyagraha'* in front of the Ashram of Gandhiji, in 1948 the then Chief Minister of the Punjab had assured them that a similar piece of legislation would be enacted at the earliest. Today that promise which was, of course, held out by the Congress Government, has been redeemed through this Bill. Now when the assurance given to the downtrodden people is being fulfilled, I congratulte the Minister-in-charge and appeal the House to pass this Bill unanimously.

Shri Mehr Singh (Hamipur) (*Hindi*) : Sir, from the speech which the hon. Shri Sri Chand has delivered, it appears as if he has endeavoured to express himself in support of the desirablity of vesting a part of right of the Shamilat Deh lands in the Harijans. But I think that had they got some soft corner in their hearts for the Harijans they would have themselves taken such a step during the regime of the Unionist Government. As a matter of fact, Sir, the vested interests and the proprietors of these lands used to exploit and intimidate those who did not have any share in them.

There are instances when these persons were served with notices asking them to remove their 'malba' within twenty-four hours, failing which strong action would be taken against them. This resulted in their having to pass nights in the open in rain and cold. By introducing this Bill, the Government has taken a progressive step in the real sense of the term. It will lead to the economic equalization

of the people and I congratulate the hon. Minister for having introduced it.

Sardar Darshan Singh (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister for Development has tried to show that the passage of this Bill will end all the hardships suffered by the labourers and non-proprietors. After hearing his speech the Harijan members of the Congress party have also tried to create the impression that their difficulties would end and they would become free. I admit that their difficulties will be removed to some extent but my party knows that it is after a great deal of agitation that this Bill has been brought forward. This is the result of efforts made by all the people. It has been said that those persons who had no land for constructing houses would get land for that purpose. I fail to understand how it will be possible for such persons to construct their houses when the Shamilat land becomes the property of all. An effort should be made to examine our basic difficulties. At present, the holdings of land are being consolidated and the Shamilat lands are being divided. As a matter of fact, no Shamilat land is left which may become the common property of the villagers.

Another thing which I wish to point out is that at present ten or twelve persons are living in one house. These people have no money to construct their own houses. Have funds been provided for them in this Bill which may enable them to build houses? The real solution of the Harijans' problems lies in the starting of new factories by the Government and the removal of unemployment. If the hon. Minister for Development is earnest about the uplift of the backward people steps should be taken to abolish landlordism and give land to the actual tillers. Sardar Khem Singh's resolution on this subject appeared on the list of business for yesterday but he was not permitted to move it.

Mr. Speaker : This is not true. Yesterday was reserved for non-official bills.

Shri Gopi Chand (Pundri) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, I offer congratulations to my hon. Friend Sardar-i-Punjab, Sardar Partap Singh, the Minister for Development, on his presenting this Bill relating to shamilat dehs. Everybody is aware of the conditions created by the landlords in the villages after the last elections when they subjected their tenants to great hardships. The Harijans were ejected from their houses and fields. These things compelled the Government to take some step for their protection. Since the introduction of this Bill in the House, the members of the Opposition who belong to different parties have expressed divergent views about it. Some of them have commended this Bill while others have stated that it would benefit the moneylenders living in the villages. As my hon. Friend Shri Rala Ram pointed out the number of moneylenders in the villages is very small. If any such person is living there, he has got his own house or shop. The object of this Bill is to give protection to the Harijans and 'kamins' whom the zamindars, who were the henchmen (पिट्ठू) of the British, have been oppressing.

Shri Sri Chand : Shut up.

Mr. Speaker : The words 'shut up' are unparliamentary and the hon. Member should withdraw these.

Shri Sri Chand : Sir I withdraw these words.

Mr. Speaker : Now, I shall ask the hon. Member from Pundri to withdraw the word henchmen (पिट्ठू).

Shri Gopi Chand : I withdraw it. Sir, the British have departed but the system has remained unchanged. The old system must end and the poor people should be helped.

Shri Wadhawa Ram : The hon. Member gave the title of Sher-i-Punjab to the Minister for Development while this was used for Maharaja Ranjit Singh only.

(Voices: No. He called him Sardar-i-Punjab and not Sher-i-Punjab)

Sardar Uttam Singh (Sri Gobindpur) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister for Development has made an earnest attempt for the uplift of the Harijans and other backward classes by bringing forward this Bill. This will give peace to the soul of Mahatma Gandhi who used to live in a hut in the Harijan colony. I feel that the hon. Minister deserves our congratulations for taking this step. As you are aware Sir, the Harijans are very backward. The Government has made a great effort for their uplift. Under the Community Project Scheme a special effort has been made to bring them on par with others by providing grants for Harijan colonies and helping them to improve their business. They have also been given equal rights in services and Panchayats.

The status of the Harijans will be considerably raised by conferring on them rights in the Shamilat lands and they will thus be able to marry their sons and daughters in good families. I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward such a useful measure.

Minister for Development (Sardar Partap Singh Kairon) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I do not deserve any congratulations for bringing forward this Bill but it is in fact the Congress organisation which deserves credit for bringing such a useful measure—the Congress which played a prominent role in the struggle for freedom of the country. I do not mean the Punjab Congress but the All-India Congress Organization. This organization has not only struggled for the attainment of political indepence but it is also making its best efforts to bring about socio-economic independence in the country in order to raise the status of the people of depressed classes who have been maltreated for long. It is with this objective in view that this Bill has been brought forward in this House.

My hon. Friend Chaudhri Sri Chand has remarked that the Prime Minister of India had promised that the land of Harijans will not be taken. I may tell him that no land of Harijans is being taken away by the Government but a common land is being set apart for the use of the village folks. It is wrong to say that the proprietary

body is being deprived of their rights. As a matter of fact, rights are being conferred on the Harijans in the Shamilat land so that they may feel no difficulty in storing their dung-cakes, etc. The peasant is the bread-giver to the whole world and he possesses large heart to accommodate others. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Sri Chand who also belongs to agricultural class should not grudge if Harijans are given rights in the Shamilat lands. He should not try to create differences between the Harijans and the zamindars. My hon. Friend Shri Wadhawa Ram while criticising this Bill has remarked that the Government has done nothing for the Harijans. If he says that the Government has done 'nothing' it means that the Government has done 'everything' for them. His criticism shows that the Government has taken adequate steps to ameliorate the lot of the Harijans. Besides this, my hon. Friend Sardar Darshan Singh has said many things in ignorance and his condition is like that of a child who bites his mother when she is giving a morsal of food to him.

I think we have done our best to do whatever little we could do by bringing forward this Bill. I am saying 'little' in all humility which in fact should be taken to mean that the Government has done enough to improve the lot of Harijans. Sir, I would say that this Bill will prove as a charter of rural freedom. In the independent India after the first general elections which were conducted on the basis of adult franchise we assumed the reins of office on 17th April, 1952. I assure the peasantry who grow food for the whole country that this Bill will give a ray of hope to those poor people who have been anxiously waiting for better times since the dawn of independence. I, therefore, congratulate the Congress again on bringing such a useful Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Bill, be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB SILKWORM SEED CONTROL BILL.

Minister for Public works (Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I move—

That the Punjab Silkworm Seed Control Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Sir, the Punjab Silkworm Seed Control Bill is being introduced because it has been generally observed that the silkworm seed is not free from disease and instead of improving the quality and quantity of indigenous raw silk, it deteriorates its quality. The Government, therefore, want to license its manufacture, sale and distribution, in order to ensure the utilisation of disease-free silkworm seed through this Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Silkworm Seed Control Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Rai Raghuvir Singh has given notice of an amendment. He may please move it.

Rai Raghuvir Singh (Seraj) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Silkworm Seed Control Bill, 1953, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of :

(1) Shri Rala Ram,
(2) Shri Daulat Ram Sharma,
(3) Shri Lal Chand Prarthi,
(4) Shri Mehar Singh,
(5) Sardar Waryam Singh,
(6) Shri Balwant Rai Tayal,

with direction to report by the 15th August, 1953.

Sir, there is no denying the fact that in undertaking this legislation the Government is moving in the right direction. The object of this Bill, namely, to ensure the supply of silkworm seed of good quality, is laudable indeed. However, there are quite a few matters connected with this problem to which I consider it necessary to invite the attention of the Government.

District Kangra is the only tract in the Punjab whose climate is congenial for sericulture. This district is of such dimensions and many places in it are so far removed from the headquarters that in my opinion one Government Sericulture Farm is wholly inadequate for its needs. This is apparent from the fact that those who are engaged in this industry are unable to obtain the supplies of silkworm seed in time. Some time back, a friend of mine had placed an order with the Government Farm for the supply of seed by postal parcel. When this parcel reached him at last I saw with my own eyes that the worms were lifeless.

The result of the passage of this measure will be that nobody will be able to have seed except from the licensed dealers. If any person not in possession of a licence issued by the Government will give any quantity of this seed to a friend or any relative engaged in this industry, he will be rendering himself liable for punishment on the report of the Inspector.

Then, Sir, the Inspector will have his office at the district headquarters from where it will be very difficult for him to reach all places in time to give his approval to the seed produced by the various persons engaged in the sericulture industry who on their part would also be put to a lot of inconvenience and expense if they were to undertake a journey to the headquarters. All these things have to be considered before passing this Bill.

After all, Sir, sericulture industry in this State is yet in its infancy. It has not yet reached the stage where there could be any danger from malpractices or in other words where State regulation becomes imperative owing to the prevalence of malpractices. The real problem is that of creating enthusiasm among the people for this industry. It is with these facts in view that I have moved for its reference to a Select Committee because it would then be possible to thrash out all its implications.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Silkworm Seed Control Bill, 1953, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of :

(1) Shri Rala Ram,

(2) Shri Daulat Ram Sharma,

(3) Shri Lal Chand Prarthi,

(4) Shri Mehar Singh,

(5) Sardar Waryam Singh,

(6) Shri Balwant Rai Tayal,

with direction to report by the 15th August, 1953.

Minister for Public Works (Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, my hon. Friend seems to be labouring under a misunderstanding. It is not the intention of the Government to restrict the manufacture of silkworm seed by issuing licences for the purpose, nor will anybody be required to approach the Inspector for getting the seed manufactured by him approved. Everybody will have the freedom to manufacture seed. We just want to know the names of such manufacturers at every place so that the Government official concerned may be able to visit their premises and inspect the seed to ascertain that it is not diseased. There will absolutely be no difficulty in obtaining a licence.

There is nothing in this Bill to necessitate its postponement till the next session or reference to a Select Committee. I, therefore, submit that it may be passed here and now.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Silkworm Seed Control Bill, 1953, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of :

(1) Shri Rala Ram,

(2) Shri Daulat Ram Sharma,

(3) Shri Lal Chand Prarthi,

(4) Shri Mehar Singh,

(5) Sardar Waryam Singh,

(6) Shri Balwant Rai Tayal,

with direction to report by the 15th August, 1953.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Silkworm Seed Control Bill, 1953, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clauses (2) *and* (3)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clauses (2) and (3) of Clause 1, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 6

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 7

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 8

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1
Sub-clause (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Public Works (Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Silkworm Seed Control Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Silkworm Seed Control Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Silkworm Seed Control Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB SMALL TOWNS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Local Government (Pandit Shri Ram Sharma) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Small Towns (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Sir, the fact is that the original Act was enacted in 1921. After that when it was decided to set up committees even in small towns, certain difficulties were experienced in the enforcement of the Act the removal of which was necessary. As these Small Town Committees had to face these difficulties the President of India during the period in which the Constitution remained suspended some time back, in the Punjab, passed an Act whereby certain amendments had been carried out in the Punjab Small Towns Act in order to remove the above-mentioned difficulties of the Small Towns Committees. As the President's Act remains in force only for a limited period, it is necessary that the Assembly should pass it in a regular form before the expiry of its enforcement.

[Minister for Local Government]

Some of the amendments that have been carried out through this Act in the Small Towns Act, are—

If a Municipal Committee is converted into a Town Committee according to its status, its assets should be handed over to the Town Committee according to a provision in the amended Act. There was no such provision in the original Act and this fact caused difficulties which have now been removed through this amending Bill.

The second amendment relates to the powers of the Municipal Committees with regard to the granting of licences for the sale of milk, butter, etc., by charging a small amount in the form of fees from the people who sell these things. By doing so, the Municipal Committees not only earn some income, but also exercise some control over these things in checking adulteration. The Small Town Committees, however, did not enjoy this power. Now according to this Bill, this power has also been given to the Small Town Committees so that they may also be able to charge some fees for the grant of licences for carrying on this kind of business.

The third amendment relates to the easy realisation of the taxes which are imposed by the Small Town Committees. So far there has been no such provision in the Act. There is, however, a rule in the case of the Municipal Committees under which the taxes imposed by them can be realised as arrears of land revenue. Now through this bill, this difficulty of the Small Town Committees has also been removed and they will also henceforth have the powers to realise their taxes as arrears of land revenue.

The fourth amendment that has been carried out through this Bill is this. It so often happens that the members of the Town Committees pass such resolutions which cause financial loss to the Committees or damage their properties. Should the Government desire, it can set such resolutions aside. But all the same, such resolutions do cause some loss to the Committees. In this connection, an amendment has already been made in the Act relating to the Municipal Committees, whereby it has been provided that if any financial loss is caused to a Municipal Committee through neglect or misconduct of the members of the Committee, that loss shall be made good by those members. This is a very sound check. But there is no such provision in the Small Towns Act. This provision is, however, being made through this Bill. According to this provision, if any financial loss is caused to a Small Town Committee and if the Government is satisfied that the loss has been caused through the negligence or misconduct of the members of the Committee, then that loss shall be made good by those members.

There was no provision for all these things in the original Small Town Committees Act. Now this deficiency has been made good. In this connection, there was the President's Act before which had removed these shortcomings. As the period of the enforcement of that Act is now coming to a close, this amending Bill has been brought forward so that it may be passed by the House before

that Act lapses. The Council has already passed it, because it was first taken up over there. Now it has been introduced for the consideration of the Assembly. I do not think there is anything in this Bill which may be controversial or which cannot be understood. I, therefore, hope that the House would accept it.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Small Towns (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Small Towns (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider it clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (2)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clause (2) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 6

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 7

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Local Government (Pandit Shri Ram Sharma): Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Small Towns (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Small Towns (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Small Towns (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB DISTRICT BOARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Local Government (Pandit Shri Ram Sharma) (*Hindi*): Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab District Boards (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Sir, this amending Bill is very much like the Small Town Committees Bill which has just now been passed. On the basis of the experience of the working of the District Boards Act, it was found that some amendments were necessary in that Act. These amendments were, however, carried out at a time when the Assembly was not working in the manner in which it is working now. At that time, an amending Act was enacted for a period of one year in the form of a President's Act. Now the same Act is being presented with some modifications in the form of this amending Bill. The important amendments that have been carried out through this Bill, are—

Firstly, no members or office-bearers will in future be nominated to the District Boards, nor any Government officers will henceforth be the chairmen of these Boards. According to the present Act, the chairmen of the District Boards are generally Government officials. There is, however, a provision in the Act according to which a non-official chairman can be elected if any District Board passes a resolution to that effect. But after the passage of this Bill the practice of appointing official chairmen will come to an end, since it has now been decided that in future no members or office-bearers will be nominated to the District Boards by the Government. That is why this provision has now been incorporated in this Bill.

The necessity of the second amendment has been felt because now there will be no nominated members and we shall require the advice of some experts in technical matters. We are, therefore, of the opinion that a District Board should contain at the most eight experts to advise on technical matters but they won't have the right of vote.

The third thing is this that some powers are being given to the Deputy Commissioners and the Commissioners as the District Boards have to be completely non-official bodies in future. In the past, the Deputy Commissioners were also the Presidents of the District Boards and they could supervise the working of the Boards. They can't do that now. Anyhow, an objection can be raised that very wide powers are being given to them. But I am to submit that if and when some District Board passes a resolution against the public interest or even its own interest it becomes necessary that such a resolution should be suspended by the Deputy Commissioner and sent to the Government for consideration. The Government can then decide whether or not that resolution should be allowed to be put through. These powers are being given to these officers only to check waste, if there be any. This clause clearly provides that the Deputy Commissioner is to suspend the resolution and bring the whole thing to the notice of the Government. I think, giving this power to the Deputy Commissioner is in the interest of the public. And then I can assure the House that this power will not be used very frequently. It will be very rarely used as no officer would like to incur the displeasure of the people by suspending useful resolutions. My hon. Friends should rest assured that this power will only be used in cases of emergency and in the public interest.

The fourth amendment. A provision is being made for applying the provisions of the Municipal Act to the areas lying close to

[Minister for Local Government]
the Municipal Committees and the Small Town Committees. This is being done lest there should be any difficulty in the planning or development of such areas.

My fifth submission is this that when taxes are imposed by the District Boards sometimes people have to file appeals. Being ignorant they don't do the needful during the prescribed period of one month. We are extending this period from one month to two months for their benefit.

Coming to the sixth point I have to say that so far the District Boards could delegate their powers to the Chairman, Vive-Chairman, Medical Officer of Health or any officer of the Education Department but we think that this delegation of powers should not be confined to these four officers only. There appears to be no reason why they should not be delegated to other officers also. This is the sixth thing that has been provided in this Bill.

The seventh thing is this. For the proper maintenance of District Board accounts it is necessary that rules should be made for their pre-audit. It is sometimes found that an account is continued for six years or so and many objections come into being. Now provision is being made for pre-audit. When the rules for pre-audit are made everything will be done in a proper manner and no objections would ever be raised.

These seven provisions are considered to be essential for the proper working of the District Boards and this is what we have learnt from experience. Now I place this amending Bill before the House which has been passed by the Council with the hope that in view of the aims and objects explained by me it will be duly considered and passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab District Boards (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajanala) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I had been under the impression that the Bill which has been placed before us was a democratic measure but I am sorry to find that I have been labouring under a misunderstanding. I am not in a position to congratulate the hon. Minister on bringing forward this Bill.

Mr. Speaker : As if you have been congratulating him before, (*Laughter*).

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : The hon. Minister knows how the District Boards are being run. The hon. Minister is aware how the Deputy Commissioners exercise their official influence over the Members of the Board and get their votes in favour of any resolution sought to be passed. The voters are compensated by being conferred different titles upon them, by being given special concessions and above all by being appointed to the posts of zaildars and lambardars. All these factors affect adversely the elected Members because the Deputy Commissioner is the highest officer of the district

and everybody has to look towards him. Now it is being asserted that the experts and specialists would be nominated. In this connection, I would like to ask, Sir, why experts have not been nominated to this august House. Then it is being argued that they would give best advice to other members of the Boards whereas I wish that they should not be allowed to take part in the deliberations of the Board. It would not be out of place to mention here that even in this House the presence of the various officers of the Government is a source of great handicap for the hon. Members for openly criticising the different problems concerning their departments. I would, therefore, suggest that the officers should not be permitted to attend the meetings of the Boards. If, however, need be, they can be consulted afterwards in regard to the various questions pertaining to their respective departments. The fact cannot be denied that the presence of the officers affects adversely the elected members and they cannot express their free and frank opinion in regard to their departments. The present Bill seeks to give dictatorial powers to the Deputy Commissioners. What I want to suggest is that if the Deputy Commissioner rejects any particular resolution some number of members should be fixed which may revalidate the resolution which has once been rejected. In its present form, the Bill shows as if the British Government is making an experiment to see whether or not the Indians may be given the right of self-Government. Sir, with these words I must say that this Bill has come out in a more defective form.

Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon (Jhabal) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, my impression was that this Bill would be received back from the Upper House in an improved form and it is a matter of gratification that it seeks to provide that in the future set-up of the District Boards there would be no nominated members or 'appointed' Chairmen. I, myself having been a member of the District Board for the last so many years, know that since 1936 they have regularly been members of these bodies and there seems to have remained no distinction between them and the elected members. In towns like Amritsar the elected members have been feeling great handicap that in spite of their being of progressive views they were dominated by the official Chairman who used to say that such and such resolution would be passed after a notification of the Government was issued to this effect. Although new elections have not been held yet the provision of appointment of an official Chairman in the local bodies is an insult to and undignified for the members. Nor does it behove the Government to suspend the resolutions till the issue of notifications.

Then, Sir, as has already been stated by my hon. Friend Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina, the presence of the official members does not have a healthy effect on the delebrations of the Boards. They sit there as if under some spell and do not prove of any use even in matters relating to their own departments and their appointment as such is nothing but sheer waste of their office time. In this connection, I would like to suggest, Sir, that they should be appointed as Members of the Sub-committees or if need be they may be sent for by means of special invitation but it does not look proper to authorise them to attend every meeting of the Board.

Then, Sir, I would suggest that appeals against the imposition of professional tax should be lodged with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman instead of Deputy Commissioner irrespective of the fact

[Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon]
whether the latter is appointed as Chairman or not. In my opinion, a Sub-committee should be appointed of the hon. Members of this House who should be conversant with the subject and they should be asked to give their considered opinion in the matter. It would not be out of place to mention here that we have revised the old rules in Amritsar District and our object has been throughout to provide adequate facilities to the public.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, our Government claims to be the Government of the people and for the people but it is so much afraid of them as is a sheep of a wolf. The real need was that the people themselves should have been given vast powers to run the Panchayats efficiently but it is very much regretable that instead the Panchayat Officers have been given supreme powers over the members of the Panchayats. Now when the turn of the District Boards has come and the people have realised that the iron grip of the Government should be made loose by violence, Government has adopted other tactics. I am reminded of the old saying—

ਪੰਚਾਂ ਦਾ ਕਿਹਾ ਸਿਰ ਮੱਥੇ ਪਰ ਪਰਨਾਲਾ ਉਥੇ ਦਾ ਉਥੇ ।

पंचां दा किहा सिर मथे पर परनाला उथे दा उथे ।

Neither have they abolished the District Boards nor accepted our suggestions. Mr. Speaker, I fail to understand how the elected Members would be able to express their plain and frank opinion about the officers in their very presence. I would like to explain myself. Supposing I have some grievances against a particular Police Officer and have to make a complaint in this regard. Naturally, I would not be able to give vent to my grievances as distinctly in his very presence as I would do in his absence. In this way, even the non-official members of these bodies will not be able to make any useful contribution in their work. As a result of this provision in the Bill, the fate of the non-official members will be the same as that of a sheep when it is confronted with a wolf. We find that whenever we say anything against the Superintendent of Police in a meeting of the Public Relations Committee, there appear signs of annoyance on his face and he puts it into his head there and then that he would in no case let that thing be done. In this connection, I am reminded of a story. Once a person employed a servant. He asked the servant in Punjabi to take the mare and show water to it. The servant thereupon took the mare to the place where water was stored and after showing the water to the mare from a distance, brought her back. When asked by the master whether he had shown water to the mare, the servant replied that he had done so. But he found that the mare was still feeling thirsty. So he again asked the servant to show water to the mare. This time again the servant showed water to the mare as before and came back. The mare was still thirsty. At this, the master grew angry and shouted to the servant to take the mare along to let it drink water and to kill it. He said these words out of exasperation at the stupidity of the servant. But the servant literally acted as he was told. He first let the mare drink water and then killed it and brought its head back to the master. What I am driving at is that these officers of the Government act upon the orders of the

Government in the same manner. They act in the manner in which they are able to harass the people. Now it is being said that the District Boards will freely arrive at all the decisions. But it has also been provided in this Bill that the Deputy Commissioner may accept or reject those decisions. This means that the District Boards will not be independent democratic bodies; they would rather be advisory boards. It is surprising, Sir, that this Bill is being brought forth by the Government which shouts from the house-tops that it stands for democracy. The fact of the matter, however, is that these people are anxious only to preserve their 'Gaddies'.

Mr. Speaker : What has this Bill to do with 'Gaddies'? Please do not mention them.

Shri Wadhawa Ram : It means, Sir, that they would allow the Boards to do only those things to which they are agreeable.

Rao Gajraj Singh (Gurgaon) (*Hindi*): Mr. Speaker, I am in agreement with a good bit of what my Friend Sardar Gurdial Singh has said. This Bill contains a number of provisions which would indicate that our hon. Minister has not been able to study it carefully. Or, may be, the Bill being a substitute for the President's Act the said Act has been reproduced without changing even a comma. In reality the President's Act was drafted by some officials and they drafted it in accordance with their own notions and ideas. But I must submit that some of the provisions do not fit in the present democratic set-up and appear to be rather retrogressive. May I respectfully ask the Minister as to how many resolutions contrary to the interests of the public were allowed to be brought forward and passed by the official and non-official Chairmen? I think not a single resolution of that type has ever been passed and, therefore, the provision in the Bill that the Deputy Commissioner will have the power to suspend any resolution of the District Board which he may consider unnecessary will introduce friction and irritation without any rhyme or reason. The hon. Minister, Pandit Shri Ram Sharma is an ardent lover of democracy and I hope that he would give serious consideration to this point. In the year 1883 when we used to have British Deputy Commissioners this power was given only to the Commissioners and, therefore, I fail to appreciate the necessity and propriety of the provisions of clauses 16 and 19 of the present Bill. I hope the Minister will be pleased to throw light on this point. Previously, if any District Board resolved to take any action which was in contravention of the law and rules it was the Commissioner who could check or suspend that action but now these powers have been given to the Deputy Commissioner under clause 16 of this Bill. Now the following words are being added to the original Bill through this clause:—

> or is contrary to the interests of the public or is likely to cause waste of, or damage to, the funds or other property of the Board.

May I ask, Mr. Speaker, what is the use of having a non official Chairman under these circumstances? After all the Chairman and the Deputy Commissioner reside in the same town. All that the Deputy Commissioner has to do to nullify any resolution of the Board is to say that it is "not in the public interest". In this con-

[Rao Gajraj Singh]
nection, I would draw the attention of the House to a recent occurrence. Some time back, the Government sanctioned a grant for sinking a well for the use of 5 Harijans and those people had already started the work in anticipation of the grant. But what happened in the office of the Deputy Commissioner? For about two months nobody even read those papers because, usually, such papers are not perused by the Deputy Commissioner. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, on the strength of my experience as a member of the District Board for 25 years that only a clerk goes through these papers, takes them to the Deputy Commissioner and gets them signed by him. And so when those papers came back the order passed by the Deputy Commissioner was to the effect that instead of giving the grant to those Harijans a well may be sunk in such and such a village. Now you see, Sir, what happened to a grant sanctioned by the Government for the benefit of some particular persons. It is on the basis of such happenings that I say that too much power is being placed in the hands of the Deputy Commissioner when you empower him to declare any and everything 'not in the public interest.'

Then, Sir, clause 19 is intended to re-enact clause 59 of the original Act but the powers which were exercised by the Commissioner under the original Act are now being vested in the Deputy Commissioners. I would submit, Sir, that if the Government wants to do away with the post of the Commissioner in this manner let it do so by all means but there is no reason why such powers should be given to the Deputy Commissioners when you have non-official Chairmen elected by the people and working according to the demands and requirements of those people. The matters concerning the local bodies are dealt with in a very strange manner in the office of the Deputy Commissioner. You have a Local Fund Clerk in that office who goes through all papers. The Deputy Commissioner never reads them. He only signs them as and when the said clerk wants him to do so. Not only that. Almost 99 papers out of a hundred are not even signed by him. They are left to the care of another E. A. C.

Thus, Sir, from every point of view this provision is a retrograde step. Of course, I extend my congratulations to the Government for embodying in it certain progressive factors, yet I cannot help drawing attention towards a very serious matter. Audit is, as a matter of fact, such work upon which the district boards have to spend thousands of rupees every year. The auditors visit the institution only once in a year, with the result that so long as they remain busy with the audit work the whole routine work comes to a stand-still and the schools are closed. In the circumstances, I urge upon the Government to make such a provision in the Bill which may seek to provide for pre-audit of their accounts so that the routine work may continue as usual. It authorises the Government to frame rules. Therefore, the government can say that each and every paper concerning the business of the district boards should bear the signatures of the Auditor. It is very undesirable if the dealing employee concerned is called to account on an audit objection after the lapse of four years. It is very unjustified on the part of the Government to recover the whole amount from the employee concerned in case he fails to reconcile the discrepancy. This would, in my opinion, be undue harassment. In the circumstances, I appeal to

the Minister to frame such rules which may provide for the initials of the Auditor on each paper even if they were required to engage an Auditor on a higher salary. I am confident, Sir, that such a provision, if embodied will leave no room for any criticism or complaint. I hope that he will apply his serious consideration on this amendment.

Shri Ram Chandra Comrade (Nurpur) (*Hindi*): Sir, we are proud of the fact that since its inception the present Congress Government has passed a number of Acts of common utility. For instance, the legislations enacted with regard to the tenants and the occupancy tenants have gone a long way in improving the lot of the poor masses living in the villages. I am of the view that the enactment of the Gram Panchayat Act, with the object of decentralising the administration and improving the existing situation obtaining in the villages, is a good step forward in a progressive state. But, Sir, I cannot help saying that the Bill which is now before the House is indubitably a retrograde one. I think that perhaps the Minister-in-charge has no experience of the distrct boards and that is why he is ignorant of the actual state of affairs obtaining there. Had he been in touch with the district board affairs, he must have known as to how the officers at the helm of affairs there conduct themselves. Sir, I have got personal experience in this direction. I was so much disgusted with the state of affairs of the institution that after its third meeting, I had to tender my resignation from the District Board. In view of all these things, therefore, it would not be wrong to remark that to vest in the Deputy Commissioner the power to veto the Resolutions passed by the District Board, will be to the detriment of the Local Self-Government. Therefore, I would appeal my hon. Friend, the Minister for Local Self-Government, to withdraw this Bill.

Apart from this, just as some other hon. Friends have observed, it will be very baneful for conducting the proceedings properly if the officers are allowed to sit in the meetings along with the elected representatives of the public. True, they would not have the right to vote but the opinion tendered by them and the part played by them in the discussion will unduly influence the free judgement of the representatives of the rural masses with the result that they would not exercise their free opinion in its deliberations. In the circumstances I feel that the Minister should withdraw this Bill.

Sardar Mohan Singh (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*): Sir, after having gone through this Bill, I have come to the conclusion that the ideas which are expressed on the floor of this House with regard to the decentralisation of administrative powers, have been thrown to the winds and instead the already decentralised powers are contemplated again to be centralised through it. I fail to understand why the elected representatives of the masses in the district boards should not be invested with powers to decide the issues confronting the boards and why their decisions should not be final and binding. When they are provided with the powers to impose new taxes, why should they not be allowed to re-examine and revise the present taxation structure of the district? It obviously means that the district boards will pass only those resolutions which are sure to get the assent of the Government, failing which they will be suspended in consonance

[Sardar Mohan Singh]
with the orders issued from above. I am of the view, therefore, that such a provision is against the spirit of a democratic set-up. The Chief Minister, himself announced on the floor of the House that the district boards would be abolished. But it is not understood what the real position is. At some occasion the newspapers publish reports to the effect that these institutions will be abolished but at other times they publish something quite different. In the circumstances, I beg to appeal to the Government to do something definite at only one and the same time.

Moreover, even if the district boards are desired to be retained, this Act according to me, requires certain important and radical amendments. For instance, previously the Deputy Commissioner of the district concerned used to be the Chairman of the District Board. But now when a departure from this practice has been proposed in this Bill and it has been provided that only a member from amongst the elected representatives will be elected to this office, democratic conventions render it extremely necessary to make in it a provision for bringing a no-confidence motion against him.

Besides, this Bill contains a provision which seeks to vest the appellate authority in those very officers who are to impose taxes. I do not like it. I would like the appeals to be preferred to the Chairman who would be accredited representative of the people. Therefore, if at all this Bill is desired to be passed, then it should embody such provisions which may be progressive and not retrograde in nature.

Shri Rizak Ram (Rai) *(Hindi)*: Mr. Speaker, although there are certain provisions in this Amending Bill viz; the replacement of nominated members by the elected ones and instead of the Deputy Commissioner one of the elected members being its Chairman, which meet one of the crying needs of the hour, yet just as some hon. Members have observed, I am of the opinion that it also embodies some such provisions which run counter to the democratic conventions. I do feel that it is absolutely against the very spirit of a democratic government to vest in a Deputy Commissioner the powers to exercise his veto on the Resolutions passed by the members of the District Board who are the accredited representatives of the people and who are satisfied that the Resolution passed by them is absolutely in the best interests of the people. This practice is, therefore, out of tune and inconsistent with the spirit of the time.

The second point which I wish to refer to is that just as the hon. Professor Mota Singh has observed it was expected in view of the repeated announcements of the Chief Minister as well as of the responsible officers of the Government, that the District Boards would be abolished and that the powers now being exercised by them would be transferred to the Panchayats. But it did not happen. On the other hand, the Bill which is now before the House, has caused a great disappointment to the people. In the circumstances, I am also of the opinion that it should first be given another thought by the Government and then discussed on the floor of the

Minister for Local Government (Pandit Shri Ram Sharma) (*Hindi*): Introducing this Amending Bill, Sir, I told the House seven specific reasons which actuated the Government to bring it. But my hon. Friends have confined their discussion to only two of them. From this I can conveniently conclude that the remaining five points do not call for any criticism at all.

So far as their arguments that the nomination of a few officers to the District Boards will go counter to democracy and their apprehension that the elected Members will prove so weak as to be perplexed by the mere presence of those officers resulting in their failure to exercise their free will in its affairs, are concerned, I feel that they have given a free rein to their imagination in deriving such inferences. These days the presence of a District Inspector of Schools or a Health Officer at a meeting of the District Board cannot lead to the harassment of forty or fifty members of the Board or influence their views. In my opinion some of the hon. Members did not study the provisions of the Bill before expressing their views about it and they simply tried to indulge in sentimental talk for the sake of propaganda. Such things can be said at every occasion and these are repeated by them. The provision entitling some officials to attend meetings of the District Boards as advisers has been objected to. I beg to submit that these gentlemen are experts representing certain spheres of work and when some matters are discussed it becomes necessary to ask for their views. The presence of a Deputy Commissioner or a Health Officer will not prevent the members of the Boards from expressing their views freely and frankly. The resolutions discussed and passed by the District Boards relate to matters for which they are responsible. Suppose an epidemic breaks out in a district. When that question is discussed by the District Board it becomes necessary to consult the Health Officer in order to know the cause of the epidemic and the measures which should be taken to check it. It is on the basis of his expert advice that some right decision can be taken.

Another point stressed by some hon. Members was that the appointment of official advisers would be tantamount to a denial of democarcy. It was said that we are afraid of the public and want to put an end to democarcy. In reply to these charges, I beg to submit that we are going to do away with the official and nominated bloc. To say things based on facts is one thing but to criticise for the sake of criticism is quite a different thing. Some gentlemen seem to have made it a point to oppose the Government at every step.

Another point raised by some hon. Members including one belonging to the Congress Party was that wide powers were going to be given to the Deputy Commissioners. I beg to point out that the Deputy Commissioners already possess such powers with respect to Municipal Committees. The amendment which is sought to be made in the existing Act would give power to the Deputy Commissioner and if he happens to be the Chairman, to the Commissioner to suspend a resolution passed in contravention of rules and regulations and to forward it to the Government. Heavens will not fall down

[Minister for Local Government]
if the Deputy Commissioner takes such a step in public interest. As already submitted by me, such powers are already vested in the Deputy Commissioners in the case of Municipal Committees including those of Amritsar and Jullundur. We should, however, see as to how many times the Deputy Commissioners invoked those powers and suspended the resolutions passed by the Municipal Committees. To a large extent such powers vest in them in the case of District Boards also. Under the existing law, if a resolution passed by a District Board causes loss to its property, the Deputy Commissioner sends a report about it to the Government. He has not the power to suspend the resolution but he can keep it in abeyance for some time and report about it to the Government. If some hon. Members say that they have no faith in their Government or in the House, it would be a different thing.

Then, Sir, it was contended that the Deputy Commissioners have heavy work to do and they cannot attend to every matter personally. Usually they sign the papers which are placed before them by their clerks. If this point is conceded for the sake of argument, is there any guarantee that every non-official Chairman or Deputy Chairman will be so intelligent and be able to devote so much time that he will do everything correctly and after proper consideration? My hon. Friend Rao Gajraj Singh also remarked that generally the Deputy Commissioners affixed their signatures to the papers which their clerks placed before them. I want to know if every non-official Chairman, Senior Vice-Chairman and Junior Vice-Chairman does every thing in a proper manner? It cannot be denied that in the existing conditions in our country mistakes are likely to be committed.

Now remains the question of the abolition or the continuance of the District Boards. I beg to submit that I am fully aware of that problem. The object of this Bill is to continue for some time certain changes made by the President's Act. We have to change the form of District Boards and replace them by District Panchayat Unions. Probably, the elections to these will not be direct. In my opinion, the elections of local bodies will be held within two months. Some of the proposed amendments are very important and I hope that the hon. Members will not oppose them. The fundamental features of this Bill are those which were introduced through ordinances and the President's Act. To make it a larger issue and to say that it is an onslaught on democracy are only sentimental things. As regards the power of suspending resolutions passed by the District Boards, I beg to point out that no Deputy Commissioner exercised that power during the last one year. At four or five places, there are non-official Chairmen instead of the official Chairmen but there is nothing to be feared on that account. When there was no such danger even in a less democratic period, it is nothing but empty talk that the passage of this Bill will end democracy.

I beg to submit once again that the amendments are such as should be accepted by the House. When we are going to have non-official Chairmen, it is just possible that a situation might arise when it would become necessary for the Deputy Commissioner to supend

a resolution passed by a District Board and bring it to the notice of the Government. The Deputy Commissioners are not being authorised to take any action beyond keeping such a resolution in abeyance for ten or fifteen days and informing the Government about it. It is in fact people's Government and we are not going to do anything which may be against the public interest. As regards the contention that these powers should not be given to the Deputy Commissioners and that such a step would be a negation of democracy, I want to tell my friends belonging to the Communist Party that nobody dare utter a word against the Government in Russia which they regard as their ideal. Nobody there can raise his voice against the party in power. It is not correct to say that we are going to take an undemocratic step. I hope that the hon. Members will approve of this Bill. Elections will be held in a month or two and it will be possible to review the whole problem after some time.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab District Boards (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSE (2)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clause (2), of Clause 1, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 3, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 5, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 6

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 6, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 7

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 7, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 8

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 8, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 9

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 9, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 10

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 10, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 11

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 11 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

NEW CLAUSE

Rao Gajraj Singh (Gurgaon) : Sir, I beg to ask for leave of the House to move for the addition of the following new Clause after Clause 11:—

"11-A. After Section 24 of the principle Act, the following new section shall be added :

24-A. Vacancies and irregularities not to invalidate proceedings. No act done or proceedings taken under this Act, shall be questioned on the ground merely of existence of any vacancy in any district board, or local board, or joint committee, or on account of any defect or irregularity not affecting the merits of the case."

Mr. Speaker : Has the hon. Member the leave of the House to move the new clause.

The leave was granted.

Rao Gajraj Singh : Sir, I beg to move—

That after Clause 11, the following new clause be added :

"11-A. After Section 24 of the principal Act, the following new section shall be added :

24-A. Vacancies and irregularities not to invalidate proceedings. No act done or proceedings taken under this Act, shall be questioned on the ground merely of existence of any vacancy in any district board, or local board, or joint committee, or on account of any defect or irregularity not affecting the merits of the case."

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Clause be considered.

The question was affirmed.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That after Clause 11, the following new clause be added :

"11-A. After Section 24 of the principal Act, the following new section shall be added :

24-A. Vacancies and irregularities not to invalidate proceedings. No act done or proceedings taken under this Act, shall be questioned on the ground merely of existence of any vacancy in any district board, or local board, or joint committee, or on account of any defect or irregularity not affecting the merits of the case."

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 12

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 12, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 13

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 13, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 14

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 14, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 15.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 15, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 16

Mr. Speaker : Rao Gajraj Singh may please move his amendment to Clause 16.

Rao Gajraj Singh (Gurgaon) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Clause be deleted.

The Assembly then adjourned till 9.30 a.m. on Saturday the 18th April, 1953.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

18th April, 1953

VOL. I—NO. 28

OFFICIAL REPORT



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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Saturday, 18*th April,* 1953.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 9-30 *a.m. of the clock.*

ABSENCE OF SPEAKER

Secretary : I have to inform the House that the Speaker is unavoidably absent and in his absence the Deputy Speaker will take the Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Now we will proceed with the questions put on the list.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ARREST OF GANG SUSPECTED TO BE DEALING IN COUNTERFEIT COINS.

***1843. Shri Ram Kishan** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether any gang suspected to be dealing in counterfeit coins has been arrested in the State during the month of Jan uary, February or March, 1953 ; if so, the details of their activities ; and the action, if any, taken by the Government against the members of the said gang ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : *Part I.* One gang comprising of 3 Marwari women suspected to be manufacturing counterfeit coins was arrested on 15th February 1953 at Jagadhri in the Ambala District.

Part II. All the coins recovered from the accused were cast in moulds. Their *modus operandi* was that the accused moved about from place to place and resided in a rented house and ostensibly earned their livelihood by making and selling paper flowers, but whenever they got an opportunity they manufactured counterfeit coins. One of the accused stated that they prepared 100 rupee coins out of the amalgamation of one seer of Kalai (Ranga), 15 one pice coins and a little quantity of silver by pouring the liquid in an earthen mould.

Part III. The counterfeit coins were examined by the Mint Master who reported them to be counterfeit. The accused were arrested and sent up for trial.

NEWS PAPERS

***1853. Shri Mansa Ram Kuthiala** : Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government maintains a list of newspapers, daily or weekly, which are not given Government advertisements ;

(b) the reasons, if any, for which a newspaper is not given the said advertisement ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (a) No.

[Chief Minister]

(b) Advertisements are not given to those newspapers which do not fulfil the criteria laid down by Government.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that the hon. Chief Minister or any one of his lieutenants issued instructions to the effect that a particular newspaper should not be given any advertisements?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : How does this question arise ?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : It does arise, Sir, because Government is required to maintain a list of newspapers to whom advertisements are not given.

Chief Minister : We need not keep a list of the newspapers to whom advertisements are not given.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Mr. Speaker, I again ask whether the Government has issued any order or sent any instructions to the effect that a particular newspaper should not be given any advertisements ?

Chief Minister : So far as the giving of advertisements is concerned I have already explained the policy of the Government in this regard. Now I once again reiterate it. It is not necessary for the Government to give its advertisements for publication to any newspaper on the ground of its having a large circulation. If other newspapers and other channels of publicity are available to the Government for the purpose of giving a reasonable publicity to a particular thing, it is not incumbent on the Government to give advertisements to that newspaper on the ground of its wide circulation.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that the giving of advertisements to the newspaper "Pratap" which used to be given Government advertisements before, has been stopped now ? If so, may I know the circumstances in view of which the giving of advertisements has been discontinued ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Disallowed.

REGISTRATION OF CASES OF DISTILLATION OF ILLICIT LIQUOR.

***1842. Shri Ram Kishan :** Will the Minister for Labour be pleased to state —

(a) the number of cases of distillation of illicit liquor registered district-wise in the State during the years 1951 and 1952, respectively ;

(b) the number of cases in which convictions took place ;

(c) the steps, if any, taken by the Government to combat this crime ?

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : The relevant information is given below :—

Name of district			Number of cases detected in 1951.	1952.
(a)	(i)	Hissar	453	821
	(ii)	Rohtak	3	15
	(iii)	Gurgaon	31	42
	(iv)	Karnal	705	329
	(v)	Ambala	366	340
	(vi)	Simla	1	..
	(vii)	Kangra	82	113
	(viii)	Hoshiarpur	470	458
	(ix)	Jullundur	671	752
	(x)	Ludhiana	403	299
	(xi)	Ferozepore	627	1,369
	(xii)	Amritsar	1,354	1,324
	(xiii)	Gurdaspur	591	685
		Total ..	5,757	6,572
(b)	(i)	Hissar	280	354
	(ii)	Rohtak	2	11
	(iii)	Gurgaon	26	30
	(iv)	Karnal	599	405
	(v)	Ambala	366	340
	(vi)	Simla	1	..
	(vii)	Kangra	53	75
	(viii)	Hoshiarpur	325	343
	(ix)	Jullundur	493	413
	(x)	Ludhiana	281	217
	(xi)	Ferozepore	502	989
	(xii)	Amritsar	957	1,241
	(xiii)	Gurdaspur	323	432
		Total ..	4,208	4,805

(c) The following measures have been taken by Government to combat the evil :—

(i) A Special Police Staff consisting of one Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police, 2 Head Constables and 5 Foot Constables has been posted in each of the nine districts of Hissar, Karnal, Ambala, Hoshiarpur, Jullundur, Ludhiana, Ferozepore, Amritsar and Gurdaspur for the assistance of the Excise Staff of the district concerned.

(ii) A motor vehicle of the Land Rover type has been provided for the use of the Excise Inspectorate Staff posted in each of the districts of Karnal, Ambala, Jullundur, Ludhiana, Ferozepore, Amritsar and Gurdaspur.

(iii) Excise Weeks are observed once in each quarter in collaboration with the Police as a way of general drive for the suppression of illicit distillation and other forms of Excise crime.

(iv) Government have provided 31 revolvers as an experimental measure for the use of the members of the Excise Inspectorate Staff.

[Minister for Labour]

(v) In addition to their own duties the services of the staff attached to the Excise Intelligence Bureau, Punjabi are utilised for the liquidation of the notorious and desparate gangs of illicit distillers and boot-leggers.

(vi) The Director of Panchayats was approached for enlisting the co-operation of the members of the village panchayats to help eradicate illicit distillation to their utmost by joining the excise raids. The requisite instructions have since been issued by him.

(vii) Special steps have been taken for the expeditious disposal of trials, uniformity of sentences and awarding of deterrent sentences in excise cases.

Shri Ram Kishan : According to the statement supplied to me, the number of detected cases of illicit distillation in 1951 was 5,757 but in 1952 this number rose to 6,572. Will the Labour Minister please state the cause of this increase in such cases ?

Minister : This is simply due to the fact that this bad habit is on the increase among the people.

Shri Ram Kishan : There is complete prohibition in Rohtak District. But this statement shows that there occurred three cases of illicit distillation in 1951 in that district while in 1952 there were 15 cases Is it because of the fact that the supervision of the Government in this connection has become slack ?

Minister : There has been no slackness in the efforts of the Government. However. the people do not give up the use of liquor and that being not available in the open market they try to distil it unlawfully.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Secretary: In pursuance of Rule 2(ii) of the Punjab State Legislature (Communication) Rules, 1952, I have the honour to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Punjab Extinguishment of Jagirs Bill, 1953, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 15th April, 1953, and transmitted to the Punjab Legislative Council for its concurrence. The same has been returned by the said Council with amendments.

EXEMPTION OF PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE RULE "SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY".

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : Sir, I beg to move—

> That the proceedings on the items of business set out for to-day be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of the Rule "Sittings of the Assembly".

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

> That the proceedings on the items of business set out for to-day be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of the Rule "Sittings of the Assembly".

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

> That the proceedings on the items of business set out for to-day be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of the Rule "Sittings of the Assembly".

The motion was carried

ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY (*SINE DIE*)

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned *sine die.*

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned *sine die.*

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned *sine die.*

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB DISTRICT BOARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL (RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSION).

CLAUSE 16

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Now the House will resume consideration of the Punjab District Boards (Amendment) Bill. Yesterday, when the House adjourned, Rao Gajraj Singh was on his legs while moving amendment to Clause 16. I call upon him to resume his speech.

Rao Gajraj Singh (Gurgaon) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, the House adjourned yesterday when I moved my amendment to Clause 16. Well, Sir, there is a fear lest the words of this clause should be misused. I think that such a thing is not at all needed in the Act. But somehow if the Government feels its necessity the hon. Minister should give an assurance that the Deputy Commissioners will not misuse this provision. I think that if necessary instructions are issued to the Deputy Commissioners and an eye is kept on their work, there wouldn't be much scope for misuse of this wide provision. I hope that such an assurance will be forthcoming in the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the clause be deleted.

Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri (Adampur) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have gone through this Bill and find that though the hon. Minister has made an honest attempt to make it a useful measure yet I am not in a position to congratulate him as it still suffers from various defects. After the mutiny of 1857 the agitation for independence went on increasing and section 45 had to be embodied in the District Boards Act as such a provision was needed by the alien Government at that time. That Government desired to keep this country in a state of perpetual subjugation. The Local Self-Government of those days, of course, did contain the words "Self-Government" but they did not mean anything as power of veto had been given to the Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners. Those were the days of despotic and undemocratic Government. But we continued our agitation. An amendment was made in the Act in 1893 but the veto power remained unaffected. Later, the Minto-Morley and the Chelmsford reforms also failed to satisfy us and our fight for independence went on gaining momentum. Now we have succeeded in

[Professor Mota Singh Anandpuri]

gaining our independence but it is sad to find that the provision of 1884 is still in existence. Such a thing is not good for any democratic Government. The parties come and go but democracy goes on for ever. We would have been pleased if these powers were to be given to the Minister but we certainly do not like the idea that a Deputy Commissioner should be in a position to nullify a resolution passed by a District Board. Being a man of progressive ideas, Pandit Shri Ram should make it a point to see that no undemocratic provisions are allowed to come or remain on the Statute Book.

Minister for Local Government (Pandit Shri Ram Sharma) (*Hindi*): In fact, this amendment aims at extending the scope of an existing provision. At present if and when a Deputy Commissioner finds that a resolution is calculated to endanger law and order, he has the power to suspend it and refer the matter to the Government. Now this power is being slightly increased. Hereafter if a resolution is likely to prove harmful to the public interests or the property of the Board, the Deputy Commissioner will have the power to suspend the resolution and ask for the orders of the Government. I am in a position to give an assurance that no Deputy Commissioner will be allowed to exercise this power unreasonably, and in case any one does that, there is no reason why we should not take a serious view of the matter. My hon. Friend Rao Gajraj Singh and the House are aware that nobody can be allowed to misuse the provisions of any Act and in case any one does that the Government has to take a serious view of the situation. Our Government, after all, is a Government of the people and cannot be maintained without their good will. In such a circumstance how can a Deputy Commissioner be allowed to suspend a resolution of a District Board unreasonably ? This provision is meant only to meet emergencies when mischief is likely to be done immediately after the passage of the resolution and before the matter comes to the notice of the Government. This power is being given to the Deputy Commissioner to check the perpetration of such mischief only. Professor Mota Singh had begun to talk of democracy. I may tell him that we are not doing anything which can be called undemocratic. Even in democracy the local bodies require the supervision of the Government. I am in a position to say from my past experience that this power will not be misused. Sardar Mota Singh referred to the old days which were very different from to-day. I think he should not have lost sight of the difference. Some hon. Members have remarked that we might be using this power for our party purposes. It is absolutely wrong to say so and such remarks don't mean anything more than a false propaganda against us. When we have not done any such thing during the last one year, why should there be fears that we shall have recourse to such malpractices? I may assure the House that these powers are not used everyday. But then every Government has to arm itself with these powers all the same. A Local Government is not a parallel Government and has got to work under the supervision of a democratic Government. The Government has to correct the mistakes of the local bodies and in case it makes any mistake itself, it is responsible for them to the people at large and this House. This provision does not go against democracy at all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the clause be deleted.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 16 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 17

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 17 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 18

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 18 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 19

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 19 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 20

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 20 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 21

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 21 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 22

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 22 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-Clause 1

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-Clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Local Government (Pandit Shri Ram Sharma) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab District Boards (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be returned to the Council with the amendments made by the Assembly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab District Boards (Amendment) Bill as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be returned to the Council with the amendments made by the Assembly.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, during the discussion of this Bill, the hon. Minister has let the cat out of the bag. He has asserted that the system of indirect elections would be introduced in the State for the electio s of local bodies but that too cannot be a progressive measure (*interruptions*). Sir, during the course of discussion, the hon. Members adorning the Treasury Benches have tried to affirm that the principle of indirect elections is based on democracy but when we repeat the same argument they begin taunting us in the name of Soviet Russia and China.

Minister for Local Government : On a point of order, Sir. Nothing was said in regard to holding of direct or indirect elections.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Mr. Speaker, he did speak about the indirect elections and that is why I have remarked that the cat has now come out of the bag.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : But he has put the cat back into the bag. (*laughter*).

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Sir, what I mean to submit is that this Bill seeks to give vast powers to the Deputy Commissioners. With due respect to the Government I would like to point out that there is no departure in this Bill from the old rules and whenever an adjournment motion is received......

Mr. Deputy Speaker : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the Bill under discussion in the House and would ask him to please confine himself to the Bill and refrain from speaking on an adjournment motion.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Sir, I am just explaining to you how muddle-headedly our Government acts. The hon. Minister wants to assure us that the Government would keep a close watch over the working of the official chairman but we people have no faith in his assurance. We know that the present Deputy Commissioners have been brought up in a defective and bureaucratic set-up and, as such they would not lock after the public interest. They would only care to see whether the members of the board comply with their wishes or not. Mr. Deputy Speaker, as you yourself have been a member cf the district board, I hope you would appreciate my view point. At present the Government feels satisfied with the report submitted by a clerk but I think that unless the present set up undergoes a radical change no improvement can be expected. I would, therefore, reiterate my point that the present Government does not really care for the public interest and, therefore, there should be some provision in the Bill to the effect that if a certain resolution is once rejected by the Deputy Commissioner and it is again passed by the members it may be taken as duly passed. It would serve as a check on the members and also check them from taking any hasty step.

Minister for Local Government : Mr. Deputy Speaker, a clause which has already been passed by the House need not be discussed again.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : It is regrettable that having been a member of this House for so many years the hon. Minister does not know that this is the third reading of the Bill.

Then, Sir, it has been stated that the Deputy Commissioners will have to render explanation. May I know whether the Deputy Commissioners are not the chips of the same old block ? May I know from the Minister whether it is not a fact that these officers are working on the old lines ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Does the hon. Member want an Upper House to be constituted even in the District Boards ?

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : I do not mean to establish an Upper House. What I want is that some sort of a democratic check should be imposed on them.

There is no gainsaying the fact that we are bound to be influenced if the Inspector-General of Police or similar high-ranking cfficers sit amongst us. This is why the officers who accompany the Ministers—of course with a view to rendering them assistance in technical and administrative matters pertaining to their respective departments—are seated in separate galleries. Therefore, it would not be desirable to permit the officers to participate in the deliberations of the district boards. When they will prcmise the members various kinds of improvements in the local conditions as the construction of roads, drainage, etc. ; the members would

[Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina]

certainly be influenced by their opinion. My submission, therefore, is that the officers should not be allowed to sit along with the elected members of the district boards. I am of the opinion that this Bill has already been conv.rted into a reactionary piece of legislation. I am pained to remark that none of the hon. Members has cared to point out this defect. Rather they have all expressed their satisfaction over the measure and have congratulated the Minister for introducing it. I think that this Bill admits of many amendments.

Sardar Darbara Singh : (Nurmahal) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, I think that the Minister has taken a very progressive step by introducing this piece of legislation in this House which seeks to abolish the system oi making nominations to the posts of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the District Boards. This will go a long way to root out the bad practices which the hon. Member from the Opposition have pointed out in respect of the administration and functioning of the district boards.

This is also a fact that the powers which have been withdrawn from the Deputy Commissioners have been vested in them in another form. Now the Deputy Commissioner will not have the power to nominate the Chairman and Vice-Chairman but they will be authorised to withhold or suspend the resolutions passed by the District Boards. We are not satisfied with this provision.

The thing which I have taken serious notice of and which I would like to make perfectly clear is that there is no point in allowing a period of two months for purposes of filing appeals against the assessment of taxes for I personally know that these are levied very unscrupulously. No tax, is imposed on the kith and kin of the people who wield influence in the District Boards. On the other hand these are levied on poor and helpless people. No heed is paid to their appeals and objections for such long periods as six months even if they prefer them. It is only after they have spent hundreds of rupees to raise their protests against the imposition of a tax of Rs 5 that the tax is reduced. This is really a very sad state of affairs. The voice of the poor is just a cry in the wilderness there. In the circumstances, I urge upon the Minister to appoint a separate board to attend to these objections. This board should either comprise of the members of the district boards or be appointed by the Government itself. Besides, there should be fixed some time-limit for hearing and deciding these objections and appeals.

Secondly, I do not agree with the observation made by my hon. Friend, Sardar Achhar Singh that the nominated members should not be allowed to participate in the deliberations of the District Boards along with the elected members. When they have not been allowed any right to vote, I do not think that their opinion will influence the free will of the members whether they participate in the meetings or not.

Then, Sir, I do not think that there can be a sounder democratic convention than that of the members of the district boards being elected by the *panches* who are, in turn, to be elected by their constituents in accodance with the provisions of the Gram Panchayat Act. This is an indirect mode of election which is in vogue in every democratic country. The system of indirect elections has been recognised in America and Russia as well. My hon. Friend, Sardar Achhar Singh may or may not agree but what I have remarked is a fact.

Sardar Uttam Singh (Sri Hargobindpur) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the local bodies functioning in the districts, viz; the Municipal Committees, the District Boards and the Panchayats, etc, cannot function properly unless there is some dominating authorities to supervise and regulate their working. It seems imperative that with a view to guiding them in procedural matters, powers be vested in the Deputy Commissioners to exercise vigilance and supervision over them. Besides, my hon. Friend Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina has also suggested the incorporation of some provision of this kind until the general situation in the State attains normalcy. In the circumstances, I do feel that it becomes absolutely necessary to ask the Deputy Commissioners to exercise their control and tender legal advice to the District Boards in the matter of procedure and maintaining homogeneity in their working in case the Members tend to ignore these things. It has been observed that more often than not the District Boards pass such Resolutions as are detrimental to the public interest. This is why the Government have decided to delegate powers to the Deputy Commissioners that may enable them to suspend such Resolutions. This will now result in no interference whatsoever from the Commissioner. He will, as a matter of fact, act as an agent between the Board and the Government. Now every Member of the Board will have access to the Government through the Deputy Commissioner and have all the difficulties confronting the public removed in no time. Besides, Sir, when we know that our people are not sufficiently literate, when we know that they are not conversant with the legal and procedural matters, it is absolutely necessary to vest in the Deputy Commissioner the supervisory powers over them until the members become familiar with the procedure and manner of working of the District Boards. Therefore, until then it is not desirable to give all the powers to the members.

Moreover, in this connection I would like to make a suggestion. feel that some time-limit must be fixed during which the Resolution may be suspended. When it has already been provided that a complaint can be lodged with the Punjab Government or the Minister for Local Government against any particular Resolution, it is necessary, for this purpose, therefore, that a particular time-limit be fixed. On the whole, I feel that the Amending Bill introduced by the Minister for Local Government is entirely justified and I, therefore, strongly support this measure and commend it for acceptance by the House.

Principal Iqbal Singh (Jagraon) (*Punjabi*) : Let me remind the Minister, through you, Sir, that the District Boards are elective bodies. In any case, to place them under the charge of any officer of the services is tantamount to strangulating democracy The Minister has stated that, at times, some decisions are taken against which immediate action is required. We have no objection if these powers are delegated to the officers in special circumstances, but to vest in the Deputy Commissioner or the Commissioner the right of their final suspension is, in my opinion, a step contemplated to suppress the popular voice. This whole thing could easily be confined to a few, words, i.e. 'in anticipation of the Minister's approval'.

Minister : It is already like this.

Principal Iqbal Singh : If this be so, then I have no objection. Then it is all right.

Professor Sher Singh (Jhajjar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I am of the view that the District Board (Amendment) Bill, which is now before the House embodies some provisions which are sure to be acclaimed by the people at large. Instead of making nominations, the Government's decision to transform them into elective bodies definitely merits welcome from the masses. Besides, the Chairmen of the district boards will also henceforth be chosen from amongst the elected members. This is also a decision which should be welcomed. But the powers which seek to authorise the Deputy Commissioners and the Commissioners to suspend any resolution or order of the district board which is contrary to the interest of the public or the district board itself are undoubtedly very excessive. Since this has already been accepted and the Bill is in the final stage, I need not criticise it any more. But one thing I cannot help saying even at this stage. I am of the view that instead of taking action at his own discretion, it would be better if the Deputy Commissioner was to suspend the resolution in case some specific percentage of the members of the district board concerned, say 20 or 25 per cent, or some local organisations were convinced that it was bound to run counter to the public interest. In that case, it is needless to say, the initiative will rest with the public or its representatives. In the circumstances, I urge upon the Minister for Local Government to frame rules and instruct the Deputy Commissioners accordingly so that the people may not have any cause for complaint. They should be instructed not to suspend any resolution of their own accord. But they may do so in case the representatives of the people or some of the members of the district board approach them personally or in writing. They should not act at their own discretion but might take steps to ameliorate the situation if the people point out specific defects in the resolution in support of their contention that the resolution is detrimental to public interest. True, the possibility of the elected members not acting against the public interest cannot be ruled out altogether but it is also abundantly clear that in case the members tend to betray the confidence of the people, the people themselves should be free to represent to the Deputy Commissioner against the decision of the Board and have it rescinded or modified. Therefore, I reiterate that the Deputy Commissioners should not be allowed to act at their own discretion.

The next point which I wish to refer to is with regard to the imposition of taxes. In this connection I am simply to suggest that the rules should be so framed as to include the provision of setting up of a Board which may hear public complaints against certain unjustified taxation, examine them minutely and dispense justice to the satisfaction of the people.

After having advanced these two suggestions I feel no hesitation in saying that the Bill which is today before the House is undoubtedly a progressive step for which I offer my congratulations to the Minister-in-charge.

Sardar Darshan Singh (Tarn Taran) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I was expecting some progressive Bills from the Government but the Bill which is to-day before the House is a reactionary piece of legislation. It is, of course, gratifying to note that instead of a nominated Chairman of the district board, one of the elected representatives of the people will occupy the chair; but the powers of suspending the resolutions passed by the members of the district board that have been vested in the Deputy Commissioner are, in my opinion, a serious encroachment upon the democratic rights of

the people. Leaving aside the taxes imposed by the Central as well as the State Government, the masses should at least exercise their right to raise their voice against the taxes imposed by the district boards, through their elected representatives in the Boards and have resolutions passed against their levy. But what will happen now ? There is every likelihood that the Deputy Commissioner may suspend any resolution passed by the members of the board. I, therefore, feel that this amendment has been made with the sole intention of having the resolutions of public utility suspended by the Deputy Commissioners.

Of course, this is a redeeming feature that instead of 30 days the time-limit for filing appeals has been extended to 60 days. But on what criterion will the taxes be levied ? I can say it on the basis of my personal experience that these taxes are imposed very unscrupulously. The officers concerned visit one of the villages and decide to levy taxes on a number of villages without examining their local conditions. Notwithstanding the income of the family concerned, the amount of the taxes is decided in consultation with the Lambardars. Sir, many a time, it has been observed that posthumous tax cards are issued.

Besides, I would like the Minister to fix some criterion for the purpose of imposition of these taxes. What I mean to say is that only the people whose income exceeds a particular limit, say Rs 1,000, be taxed and not the people whose income is less than that. Apart from this, handicaps and difficulties are experienced even in the matter of filing appeals. If a particular person files an appeal against a tax of Rs. 5 he has to spend a sum not less than rupees eleven in filing an appeal. My submission is that the people in the villages are very poor. They cannot afford to spend money on appeals, etc. Therefore it will be desirable and in the fitness of things if the appeal was allowed to be preferred on a plain sheet of paper. Apart from this the appeal should lie to the Chairman of the district board concerned and not the Deputy Commissioner.

Dewan Jagdish Chandra: Sir, I beg to move—

That the question be now put.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Local Government (Pandit Shri Ram Sharma) (*Hindi*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, no new point has been raised during the course of discussion of this amending Bill at its last stage. So far at my friends of the Communist Party are concerned, their speeches are always of a set type and with slight modifications these can be delivered on every Bill, amendment or other motion. They always say that the Government and its officers do not act properly and that there is no need for any Bill or amendment. They have expressed such views with respect to every Bill that was placed before this House and will repeat them with minor changes in future also. They will always malign the Government and its acts. The presence of one hundred members on this side of the House and

[Minister for Local Government]
only six belonging to their party on the other side shows how far there is any force in their statements. There may be some bad officers and we may also be lacking in some respects but it does not mean that all the existing laws should be repealed and no new law be enacted so that the Government or the Deputy Commissioners, who do not function properly according to these gentlemen, should have no powers. If some practicable suggestion had been made the Government would have gladly considered it. My friends have been repeating the same arguments again and again and I do not consider it necessary to deal with them in detail.

One of the objections raised by my friends was that this measure would be a blow to democracy. Another hon. Member said that it was not desirable that the Deputy Commissioner should have the power of suspending a resolution and bringing it to the notice of the Government. I wish to point out that under Section 47 of the Act, the Deputy Commissioner already possesses the power of drawing the attention of the Government to the resolutions passed by the District Boards in certain cases. If a resolution is against the public interest or is likely to do harm to the District Board property, it is the duty of the Deputy Commissioner to bring this fact to the notice of the Government immediately. The resolution will remain suspended for six or seven days only during which the Government will be able to consider the matter We are not going to give dictatorial powers to the Deputy Commissioners There are many instances when the District Boards transferred their properties to some public institutions or private individuals. When we asked for explanation we were advised by the Legal Remembrancer that the matter was time-barred and we could take no action. These powers are proposed to be given to meet extraordinary situations so that if a Deputy Commissioner thinks that an improper thing has been done by a District Board, he may be in a position to do something to set matters right. He is not being empowered to interfere on all occasions. He is being empowered to suspend a resolution if it affects peace and tranquillity, public interest or the property of the District Board and to the notice of the Government without loss of time. I fail to understand how it can be termed as an onslaught on democracy or how it will lead to a revolution. My hon. Friend Professor Sher Singh stated that the Deputy Commissioners should not take any action unless some members of the District Board request him to do so. If the members of the District Board do not move in the matter and we ask a Deputy Commissioner to explain why he took no action when the District Board acted in that manner, he would say that he knew everything but no member of the Board asked him to take action. I beg to submit that we cannot allow this state of affairs to continue.

My friends of the Communist Party discuss the General Administration at every opportunity but I was surprised to find that my hon. Friend Sardar Darbara Singh discussed the District Board administration and complained that some of the taxes levied by them were not proper. I want to tell him that when a bill on that subject was under discussion he could have moved the amendments he considered necessary. It is not proper to say at this stage that the Government should have done some other things also. We have brought the measure which we considered necessary

and the hon. Member is at liberty to move any number of amendments. I concede that some of the taxes levied by the District Boards are not fair and proper and we have tried to remove those defects, but that matter has no relevancy at this stage.

Then, Sir, no mention of elections has been made in this bill but even that question was raised by some hon. Members. The Government holds elections according to the law. Generally, elections to the Legislative Assemblies and Municipal Committees are direct and these take all the time. Sometimes the advisability of holding indirect elections to the District Boards is also considered because that system is in vogue in some countries. The Government has not arrived at any decision about this matter and it would be premature to say anything on that subject. The object of the amendments sought to be made in the District Boards Act is to abolish nominations, provide for pre-audit of accounts and to make a member accountable for loss caused to the Board on account of his individual act.

Then, Sir, the question of the appointment of advisors was also raised during the course of discussion. It was said that the members of the Boards would feel embarrassed in their presence and would not be able to act properly. I beg to submit that if some persons are afraid of the presence of Inspectors of Schools or Veterinary Surgeons, they cannot be expected to do any useful work as members. What is the use of having such members ? In the end, I wish to point out that there is nothing objectionable in this measure and I hope that the House will approve of it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

> That the Punjab District Boards (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be returned to the Council with the amendments made by the Assembly.

The motion was carried.

THE COURT FEES (PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL, 1953.

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to introduce the Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Irrigation : Sir, I beg to move—

> That the Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, this is a subject which can easily be understood by the lawyers The fact is that the people who have to institute cases in the civil courts are required to affix court fee stamps on their plaints which bring considerable revenue to the Government. In this connection the High Court has decided that in declaratory suits court fee should be affixed according to Clause 7 IV(C) of the Court Fees Act and not under Clause 7 V (C). Now if any person institutes a declaratory suit for the restoration of his property claiming that its sale was effected illegally he has to affix court fee under Clause 7 IV (C) of the Act now in force. This is resulting in a loss of income to the government. This Bill has been introduced to amend the present Act. If this Bill is passed court fee will be levied according to the valuation of the property in dispute, and the loss which is at present suffered by the Government will stop.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I think that the High Court has taken a right decision that in declaratory suits court fee should be levied at a flat rate of Rs 7-8-0. In this way the poor people can get justice in the courts without incurring much expense. If the Government wants to augment its revenues it can easily do so by increasing the rate of income-tax. I think the government should withdraw this Bill.

Sardar Darbara Singh (Nurmahal) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, My hon. Friend Sardar Achhar Singh has raised an objection against this Bill and has remarked that the High Court has taken a right decision in prescribing a court fee of Rs 7-8-0 for all declaratory suits. In support of this he has advanced an argument that with this nominal court fee a poor man will be able to seek justice in the courts of law. I think it will increase litigation and attempt will be made by the reversioners to harass the people who have purchased such property. Under these circumstances, I think it is meet and proper that court fee should be levied according to the valuation of the property under dispute. If court fee stamp of Rs 7-8-0 is affixed on such plaints then the government will stand to lose its revenue and litigation will also increase. With these words, Sir, I support this Bill.

Shri Wadhawa Ram (Fazilka) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, my hon. Friend Sardar Darbara Singh has advanced an argument that the present Act if not amended will give rise to more litigation. It appears that he does not know that only rich people can indulge in litigation and the poor people can ill-afford to seek justice in the courts. If a declaratory suit could be lodged in the court by affixing a court fee of Rs 7-8-0 then even a poor man can seek redress of his grievances in the courts of law. The hon. Ministers while introducing any Bill always appeal to the House to give its support to it by saying that it is an innocent Bill. I oppose this Bill and think that it should not be passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Court Fees (Punjab Amendment), Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE EAST PUNJAB GENERAL SALES TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Labour (Chaudhri Sundar Singh) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to introduce the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Labour : Sir, I beg to move—

That the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, the *beoparis* had quite a few grievances about the amendments that were made in the East Punjab General Sales Tax Act in August 1952. An agreement was, however, reached between them and the hon. Finance Minister in December last in regard to those grievances. As this Bill has been drafted on the basis of that agreement, I just take this opportunity to enumerate the various points at issue which have been decided.

The first point on which agreement has been reached is this. Formerly those *beoparis* who were neither producers nor manufacturers had to keep their account on the basis of their sales. It has now been decided that they may prepare and submit their account to the assessing authority on the basis of their purchases.

Formerly, the importers too had to render an account of their sales. Now they have been permitted to submit a statement of their accounts prepared on the basis of their purchase vouchers. In this way, the botheration of which they used to complain has been mitigated.

The third important change that has been made is that in future the assessing authority will not serve a notice in form 14-A to any *beopari* requiring him to issue cash memos unless it is fully satisfied of evasion taking place. Formerly, the assessing authority was empowered to issue such a notice on the slightest doubt. Now it will not have that power and ordinarily such notices will not be issued in future. This will save the dealers from embarrassment in the presence of their customers.

[Minister for Labour]

Another complaint of the *beoparis* has been removed by making it necessary for the assessing authority to be accompanied by two representatives of the business community while making an entry and inspection of the warehouses and premises of a dealer.

It has also been decided that a dealer who had placed an order for the supply of goods before the 8th of August 1952 but who had received their delivery after that date need not get himself registered provided, of course, he had not placed any subsequent order for the supply of more goods.

We have also decided not to impose any penalty on those dealers who have been guilty of evasion provided they submit a true account of their business by 30th June 1953; nor will prosecutions be launched against them.

The *beoparis* are feeling jubilant over the concession of thirty days of grace for registration. Formerly, a dealer had to get himself registered on the very day that his turnover reached the taxable quantum.

Another concession that has been granted to the *beoparis* is this While formerly no dealer could appeal against the decision of the assessing authority without first making full payment of the amount assessed on him, it has now been decided that in hard cases in which the assessees may not be in a position to pay the amount assessed, the Excise and Taxation Commissioner may permit them to file appeal without first making the full payment.

Steps will also be taken to ensure that no dealer is subjected to double taxation. Any dealer who purchases goods from a registered dealer will not be required to pay the tax. A dealer whose turnover rises high so as to reach the exemption limit of fifty thousand will not be asked to pay tax for the goods on which the tax may already have been paid before he is registered.

To remove the complaint of the motor dealers that motor trade is being diverted to places outside this State since those who purchase motor cars from there are not required to pay the tax, it has been decided to realise from such dealers a lump sum, say, rupees two hundred or three hundred in lieu of the tax. A notification to this effect will soon be issued.

The *beoparis* may rest assured that they will not be subjected to undue botheration or harassment of any kind. The Excise and Taxation Commissioner will always be prepared to look into cases of hardship and remove all legitimate grievances of the traders.

It is with this end in view that this Bill has been brought before the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shri Ram Kishan (Jullundur City, North-West) (*Hindi*): Sir, it is a matter for gratification that the six months old negotiations between the Punjab Government and the *beoparis* in regard to the demands of the latter have proved successful and the Government has taken the first opportunity that offered itself to give the agreement arrived at a legal shape. There are, however, one or two points to which I would like to invite the attention of the Government.

Of all the demands of the traders of the Punjab, three were basic demands. I know that there are a number of difficulties in the way of the Government in the matter of acceptance of those demands and it is trying to fulfil them. But one of those demands which they have been putting forth for the last seven or eight months was with regard to the Sales Tax, namely, that it should be charged from them on a lump-sum basis. The Government has, in this connection, accepted the proposal of the owners of the trucks. In the case of general traders, however, this demand has not been conceded so far.

The traders have put forth their point of view before the hon. Chief Minister at the time of the interview, which they had with him on the 3rd September 1952. They had then also placed their demands before him. But the hon. Chief Minister had instructed them to submit a memorandum giving facts and figures regarding their case to the Excise and Taxation Commissioner and to have a talk with him in this connection. He further told them that after their interview with the Commissioner, the Government will consider this matter sympathetically. So a meeting was held on the 11th March 1953 between the traders and the Excise and Taxation Commissioner and they submitted their memorandum to him. The objections that were raised by him were replied to by the traders on the 27th March 1953. It was hoped that somehow or other this matter would be settled. But on the 5th April 1953, this series of talks between the traders and the Finance Minister was broken. The Government refused to concede the demand regarding the charging of Sales Tax in lump sum. The Government point of view is that there are a number of difficulties in the way of acceptance of this demand which the traders will have to face in this connection. I would submit that if there are any difficulties they will be experienced by the traders themselves. The Government should concede their demand for once. They will themselves try to overcome their difficulties. You are aware, Sir, that in 1948, the income from Sales Tax amounted to Rs. 25 lakhs only. Now, this amount has increased to the tune of Rs. 170 lakhs. The traders say that they are prepared to pay the full amount up to the last pie of the Sales Tax which may be due from them in a year. Whether this amount comes to Rs. 173 lakhs or Rs. 2 crores, they are prepared to pay in a lump sum. The Government is of the view that the traders will, no doubt, pay this amount for the year in which the market remained easy and consequently, there was good business for the traders, but they will not be able to pay the tax for the year in which the business was not good due to slump in trade. But I most respectfully make this submission to the Government that they should adopt this procedure for one year as an experiment. Even in normal course the Sales Tax Act is amended two or three times in a year. If, therefore, this demand of the traders does not prove to be workable, another amendment can be made in the Act. I would, therefore, submit that the Government should give a sympathetic consideration to this demand of the traders.

[Shri Ram Kishan]

Sir, you might remember that the hon. Chief Minister had declared the other day that if any party, section or community or group should have any complaint, it should come to him and he was prepared to remove that complaint in every possible manner. When he is actuated by such a noble thought, this demand of the traders which is a unanimous one must be given a sympathetic consideration. The traders have to play an important role in the progress of the Punjab and in the starting of private enterprise. We, should, therefore, take them completely into confidence. I am glad that the Government is now implementing those sympathetic decisions which were arrived at last year by it in regard to their demands.

Now, so far as the evasion of Sales Tax is concerned, we should appeal to the traders exactly in the manner in which the Central Government had appealed to the capitalists. At that time the people were surprised how the Government of India had realised Income Tax amounting to crores of rupees from the capitalists without any legislation on this subject. I hope that our traders will extend the hand of co-operation towards the Government and will indulge in no evasion of the tax. Our Government does not want to do any injustice to them. It wants to solve this problem amicably and peacefully and it wants that the traders should also respond in the same manner. I congratulate the Government for the step that it has taken in this connection. But before resuming my seat, I once again request the Government to concede this demand of the traders soon. If this is done, it would effect a saving in the expenditure of the Government and the collection of the tax will also be very much facilitated. At the same time, there will be no decrease either in the amount of the tax to be realised since the Government has in its possession complete facts and figures regarding the registered and unregistered traders. I would, therefore, submit that the Government should make an experiment for one year by accepting the demand of the traders. If there should occur any difficulties due to which the proposal for the lump sum payment of the Sales Tax proves unworkable, the Act should then be amended. I hope that the Government will give sympathetic consideration to this suggestion.

(At this stage the Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair and Dewan Jagdish Chandra, a member of the Panel of Chairmen, occupied it).

Shrimati Sita Devi (Jullundur City, South-East) *(Hindi)* : Mr. Chairman, the hon. Minister has tried to explain in detail the provisions of this Bill. He has also tried to explain the steps taken by the Government to provide various facilities to the traders as a result of the talks carried on with them during the course of a year. Our Finance Minister, Sardar Ujjal Singh, has during the last one year, met the traders for talks not once but many times and has earnestly tried to remove their difficulties in regard to the Sales Tax to the utmost extent. I wish to congratulate him for the interest taken by him in this connection. He has accommodated the traders after making an earnest effort in this direction and has also removed their difficulties to a great extent. However, Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a few submissions to the Government through you. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister particularly to this thing. The greatest complaint of the traders is that the registered dealers have to make a regular payment of the Sales Tax while the unregistered dealer is free from this botheration of maintaining any accounts of this tax. This

is an admitted fact that the customer makes his purchases from the shop which can supply things at cheap rates. So he makes most of his purchases from the unregistered dealers, since he gets things from them without paying any Sales Tax. In this way, the registrered dealers remain at a disadvantage. I wish to request the hon. Minister that he should try to remove the unrest prevailing among the public as well as the traders. It is, no doubt true that the incidence of the Sales Tax does not directly fall on the traders and that is the answer which I myself give to them. But their complaint, which I have just now pointed out, is a genuine one. If Sales Tax is charged from them in a lump sum, their complaint is removed. My brother Shri Ram Kishan has also referred to this complaint of the traders in his speech. It is a long-standing complaint. I wonder why the Government has not thought it fit to remove it so far. There are in its possession facts and figures regarding the turnover of every dealer. On the basis of those facts and figures it can be estimated as to how much Sales Tax should be charged in a lump sum from each dealer. While the Government will have in this way realised all the amount of the Sales Tax from the traders, the traders will also be saved from the botheration of maintaining accounts. You might be knowing, Sir, that the business community is usually not educated. The new generation is no doubt educated, but the old traders are usually not very highly educated. If, therefore, they do not employ clerks, the accounts of Sales Tax cannot be maintained and if they employ them, there is an increase in their expenses. Besides, they do not earn so much. What I wish to submit is that the traders have to suffer numerous hardships. I agree that the Government tries its best to remove the difficulties of the people and do useful work for them. Sometimes even the hon. Members of the Opposition who are never tired of criticising the Government can't help admitting that this Government has done some admirable work. But then I must say that the Government should not overlook the difficulties of the traders and should take immediate steps to charge the Sales Tax in a lump sum so that they are not put to any unnecessary botheration. I hope that the hon. Minister will consider these things rather sympathetically and remove the difficulties of the businessmen.

Minister for Labour (Chaudhri Sundar Singh) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I may tell the Comrade Sahib that I had asked for a proposal from the Excise and Taxation Commissioner and the case has been examined. But the Government has not yet reached any conclusion. The matter is yet under consideration. We always have a desire to do whatever we can for the traders.

The hon. Lady Member has said that the traders are usually illiterate. I do not agree with her. At any rate they know *Landas* and are in a position to keep accounts. So far as the question of turnover is concerned the exemption limit for an unregistered concern has been raised from rupees thirty thousand to fifty thousand. The traders are a very intelligent and respectable community. They should realize that the Government has always been sympathetic towards them and has been trying to remove their difficulties. They should rest assured that they will continue to get the same treatment even in the future. There is no reason why they should not be satisfied with the agreement reached between them and the Government.

Mr. Chairman: Question is—

That the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Chairman: Now the house will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Chairman: Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Chairman: Question is—

That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Chairman: Question is—

That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Mr. Chairman: Question is—

That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Chairman: Question is—

That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Chairman: Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Labour (Chaudhri Sundar Singh) : Sir, I beg to move—

> That the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, be passed.

Mr. Chairman : Motion moved—

> That the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

> That the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE EAST PUNJAB TRACTOR CULTIVATION (RECOVERY OF CHARGES) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1953.

Minister for Public Works (Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I beg to introduce the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation (Recovery of Charges) (Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Public Works : Sir, I beg to move—

> That the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation (Recovery of Charges) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Chairman, the Bill before us is a very small one. Formerly, if a person cultivated land by means of a tractor hired from the Government, he had to pay the hire in a lump sum. This resulted in a hardship to the cultivator. He was faced with a grave difficulty particularly when his crop was not good. Now according to this provision the payment on account of hire of tractor can be made in instalments. This is an ordinary Bill and I hope that it will be accepted without any objection.

Mr. Chairman : Motion moved—

> That the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation (Recovery of Charges) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Chairman, the Bill before us is really a useful measure. It is sure to help our Grow-More-Food campaign. Before I resume my seat I would only say that the instalments should be rather easy. I hope the Government will not lose sight of this aspect of the matter.

Shri Ram Kishan : (Jullundur City, North-West) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Chairman, the Bill before the House is really a good Bill. I have all praise for it. But I may be allowed to make one or two submissions about it. I wish to say that according to the Government reports the experiment of tractor cultivation has not been as successful as was expected. We had to suffer a loss of 36 lakhs of rupees on account of mechanical cultivation from 1949 to the present day.

Mr. Chairman : That is quite a different matter.

Shri Ram Kishan : Sir, it would not be out of place to mention here that the Punjab Government had appointed a Committee which had recommended to the Government that giving of Government help to the private individuals for tractor cultivation was an uneconomical proposal. Besides, it was not beneficial to the cultivators either, and under the circumstances the Committee had recommended its stoppage. So, I would like to ask the Government whether its recommendations have been accepted or not ? The next point which I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that it had purchased 151 tractors, but their condition is such that only 39 tractors out of them are in working order. I, therefore, consider it my duty to draw the special attention of the Government to this matter and suggest that if more tractors are imported under the Five-Year Plan they should be kept under proper supervision. While making their purchase care should be taken to see that the machinery is new and perfectly in order so that the poor cultivators may be able to get full advantage from the money they spent to purchase them. With these words Sir, I resume my seat.

Minister for Public Works (Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, I would make only a few observations. The fact whether or not the tractor cultivation has proved beneficial in our State is quite a separate matter whereas the object of this Bill is to allow recovery of tractor cultivation charges to be spread over some annual instalments instead of being realised in a lump sum. Under the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation (Recovery of Charges) Act, 1949, a cultivator has to pay these charges in a lump sum as soon as the tractor cultivation has been completed.

Then, Sir, it has been stated by my hon. Friend Shri Ram Krishan that the tractor cultivation scheme has not proved beneficial to the cultivators. Well, Sir, this is for the cultivators themselves to see whether the tractor cultivation is beneficial or the tilling of land by means of bullock suits them. What I mean is that this thing should be decided by the cultivators themselves and not by the Government or anybody else This Bill is concerned with the payment of outstanding tractor cultivation charges which the cultivators are not in a position to pay in a lump sum.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation (Recovery of Charges) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Chairman : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (2)

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That sub-clause (2) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 6

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause 1

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill,

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Chrirman : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Capital Project (Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation (Recovery of Charges) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Chairman : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation (Recovery of Charges) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That the East Punjab Tractor Cultivation (Recovery of Charges) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE SIKH GURDWARAS (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

Minister for Public Works (Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Sikh Gurdwaras (Second Amendment) Bill which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 14th April 1953, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Chairman : Motion moved—

That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Sikh Gurdwaras (Second amendment) Bill which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 14th April 1953, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Sikh Gurdwaras (Second Amendment) Bill which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 14th April, 1953, be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Chairman : Now, I will put the amendments to the House.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Chairman: Question is—

That in the sub-section (2) of the proposed section 127-B, line 8, between the words "the Board" and "as" the words "or by appointment of special committees or trusts elected by a majority of 3/4 of the members of the Board in a General Meeting" be inserted.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Public Works (Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : Sir, beg to move—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Second Amendment) Bill as amended by the Punjab Legislative Council be passed.

Mr. Chairman : Motion moved—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Second Amendment), Bill as amended by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Second Amendment) Bill, as amended by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

The motion was carried.

AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE SIKH GURDWARAS BOARD (TRANSITIONAL PROVISION) BILL

Minister for Public Works (Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Punjab Sikh Gurdwaras Board (Transitional Provisions) Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 14th April 1953, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Chairman, the only thing is that in the previous Amendment we had used the word *Darbar,* whereas the Legislative Council has substituted it by *Raj Pramukh.*

The next recommendation made by the Legislative Council is that the nominations made by the *Raj Pramukh* up to 1st April 1953 should not be considered valid for the new vacancies which are likely to occur after that date. As these are good recommendations, I suggest that these be adopted.

Mr. Chairman : Motion moved—

That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Punjab Sikh Gurdwaras Board (Transitional Provisions) Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 14th April 1953, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Punjab Sikh Gurdwaras Board (Transitional Provisions) Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 14th April, 1953, be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Chairman : Now I will put the amendments to the House.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That in the proviso, lines 4-6, for the words "or the nominees of Darbars . . . Act, 1925" the following be substituted—

"Or the members nominated by the Rajpramukh of the Patiala and East Punjab States Union under Section 43 subsection (1) part (3) of the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925".

That to the existing clause the following second proviso be added—

Provided further that the provisions of this section shall not affect the nominations made by the Rajpramukh under the Section aforementioned prior to 1st April, 1953.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Public Works (Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa): Sir, I beg to move—

> That the Punjab Sikh Gurdwaras Board (Transitional Provisions) Bill, as amended by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Chairman : Motion moved—

> That the Punjab Sikh Gurdwaras Board (Transitional Provisions) Bill, as amended by the Punjab Legislative Council be passed.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

> That the Punjab Sikh Gurdwaras Board (Transitional Provisions) Bill, as amended by the Punjab Legislative Council be passed.

The motion was carried.

AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE SIKH GURDWARAS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Sardar Darbara Singh (Nurmahal) : Sir, I beg to move—

> That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in he Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 15th April 1953, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Chairman : Motion moved—

> That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 15th April 1953, be taken into consideration.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

> That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 15th April 1953, be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

At this stage the Deputy Speaker occupied the chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Now I will put the amendments to he House.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

> That in the proposed first proviso to subsection (1) of section 63, line 3, the words "of the said Act" be deleted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

> That in the proposed first proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 63, line 5, between the words "in" and "general" the word "a" be inserted,

The motion was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That in the proposed subsection (3) of Section 63, line 4, for the word "Board" the word "meeting" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Darbara Singh : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, as amended by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, as amended by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, as amended by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB HABITUAL OFFENDERS (CONTROL AND REFORM) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Habitual Offenders (Control and Reform) (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council. be taken into consideration.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Habitual Offenders (Control and Reform) (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be taken into consideration.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, we have already expressed our views with regard to the Bill which was originally passed by this House. But the amendment which has now been recommended by the Upper House seeking to make this Act applicable even to the people who committed offences five years before its commencement is absolutely uncalled for. This is not in the least justified or in order. My submission is that we should now start with a clean slate. Why should a man who has already been punished for the offence which he committed, be awarded double punishment ? This Act bears no precedent. I would like to enquire of the Minister the benefit which is likely to accrue if it were to become operative five years before its enactment.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, as a matter of fact the provision which we now seek to make is with a view to watching the record of a person who indulges in criminal and offensive activities How can we ascertain and treat him in the category of the Habitual Offenders unless we know of his previous record ? We do not wish Sardar Achhar Singh to be declared a Habitual Offender only on the basis of his having committed a current offence. In fact, we want the police to resort to this action only in case his previous record speaks in such terms.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Habitual Offenders (Control and Reform) (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill, clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 6

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 7

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 8

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 9

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 9 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 10

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 10 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 11

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That clause 11 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Habitual Offenders (Control and Reform) (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council be passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Habitual Offenders (Control and Reform) (Amendment) Bill as passed by the Punjab Leigslative Council be passed.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, as a mattar of fact I have failed to understand the essence of the observation which the Chief Minister has been pleased to make in reply to my query. The Bill clearly states that it will come into force five years before its enactment and accordingly the people who had committed offences even five years ago would also be declared Habitual Offenders. I would urge upon the Cheif Minister to give further consideration to it and not bring the people of the aforesaid category within its purview. It would, of course, be proper if the Government were to commence its enforcement five years after the date of its enactment.

Chief Minister (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I would like to say that the hon. Member hailing from Ajnala is talking in irrelevant terms. It is not the question of 'horses' or 'donkeys'.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : For him, both are one and the same thing.

Chief Minister : They want both of them to become alike. But we do not consider them in these terms. There is a world of difference between the two. We do not want a 'horse'. to be 'converted' into a 'donkey' while introducing this Bill we were actuated by the idea of keeping a watch over the character of a person for a period of five years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

> That the Punjab Habitual Offenders (Control and Reform) (Amendment) Bill, as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

The motion was carried.

AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE PUNJAB EXTINGUISHMENT OF JAGIRS BILL, 1953.

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I beg to move—

> That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Punjab Extinguishment of Jagirs Bill. which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 15th of April 1953, be taken into consideration.

Sir, as a matter of fact there is no material change in the Bill which has now been returned by the Legislative Council. It contains recommendation for a minor amendment. In the Bill which we passed in this House, the power to decide whether or not any person owned a Jagir was vested in the Court. But the Upper House has subtituted the word "Government" in place of the word 'Courts'.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Good.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

> That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Punjab Extinguishment of Jagirs Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 15th of April 1953, be taken into consideration.

Shri Mool Chand Jain (Sambhalka) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I extend my congratulations to the Legislative Council particularly for one of the amendments which it has recommended in this case. In the Bill which we passsd in this House, religious and charitable institutions were exempted from the scope of the definition of the term 'Jagir'. In doing this we perhaps forgot that certain religious institutions constituted such a category of 'Jagirs' which had been granted more than fifty or hundred years back for specific purposes of public benefit. But the 'Mahants' in whose name the Jagirs were transferred, converted them into centres of debauchery. It is now gratifying to note that the Amendment recommended by the Council seeks to confiscate all such Jagirs, of course, excepting those which continue to work for those moral ends for which they were created. Sir, I would like to submit that scores of such examples have been noticed and heard of. There is a village named Goli in our District where 2,000 bighas of land had been given as a similar jagir. No Land Revenue is charged by the Government for it. The name of its 'Mahant' is Shri Jugal Kishore. The aim behind the earmarking of this jagir was that the income accruing from it be used for opening Shivalayas and schools with a view to disseminate the knowledge of Sanskrit to the people and giving free meals to the poor. But it is common knowledge for those who hail from Karnal that for the last twenty to twenty-five years, this institution has been a centre of debauchery. I am, therefore, confident that in consonance with the provision embodied in this amendment, this land will also be acquired and the right of jagir extinguished. In the circumstances, I congratulate them and commend this amendment to this House for its acceptance.

Minister for Irrigation : The amendment referred to by the hon. Member has not yet been received from that House.

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina : Therefore, the congratulations should be withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the amendments made by the Punjab Legislative Council in the Punjab Extinguishment of Jagirs Bill, which was passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the 15th of April 1953 be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Now I will put the ammendments to the House.

CLAUSE 2

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That in sub-clause (c) line 4, for the word "or" appearing in the beginning of the line the word "and" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Now the next amendment would be put to the vote of the House. It is a new clause which is to be added as clause 4 after clause 3 in the Bill.

CLAUSE 4

Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina (Ajnala) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, before you put it to the House, I would like to say a few words about it. Sir, this is a very useful measure because if these powers had been given to the courts the jagirdars would have used their income from jagirs for fighting cases and would not have allowed any decision to be reached. It is for the first time that the Government has brought forward a really useful measure and I would request it not to leave this work to clerks. It would be much better if the hon. Minister were to himself decide these cases in consultation with the M.L.A. representing the ilaqa to which the jagirdar in question belongs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That after the existing clause 3 the following clause 4 be added—

"4. If there is any doubt as to whether or not a grant, estate interest or right, referred to in clause (a) of Section 2, is a Jagir or a Military Jagir, the decision of the State Government in this behalf shall be conclusive proof of the fact that it is or is not a Jagir or Military Jagir as the case may be and such decision of the State Government shall not be called in question in any court or before any other authority."

The motion was carried.

Minister for Irrigation (Chaudhri Lahri Singh) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Extinguishment of Jagirs Bill, as amended by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Extinguishment of Jagirs Bill, as amended by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Extinguishment of Jagirs Bill, as amended by the Punjab Legislative Council, be passed.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned sine die.

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